

ny reports
left country
MARCUS

Trucks full of fruit, vegetables,
rice and other supplies are still
arriving and the house and street
are still packed with his support-
ers," said one resident. "If he had
left the country why would his
supporters still be around?"

Neighbors will refuse to accept
any agreement that allows Meshu-
lam or his supporters to carry on
living on the street.
"When the police do eventually
act they will not arrest all those
settled at the house," said the resi-
dent. "We are also afraid of acts of
violence. Our patience is wearing
thin - time is against us and Meshu-
lam is actually gaining supporters."
Meanwhile Meshulam's armed
supporters continue to film any-
one arriving near the house and a
handheld video camera on a
rope is being used to film the
activities of the Yehudi Aharonov
group. The group was beaten up by
Muslim supporters.

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UDELMAN

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NIS 3.70 (EILAT NIS 3.20)

2 soldiers stabbed at mall in capital

BILL HUTMAN

A KNIFE-wielding Hamas mem-
ber stabbed two soldiers at an en-
trance to the busy Jerusalem Mall
in the capital's Malha neighbor-
hood yesterday afternoon, before
being chased down and detained
by two bus drivers.

Nissim Attias was reported in
satisfactory condition, and Reu-
ven Dashedi in good condition,
at Hadassah-University Hospital
at Ein Kerem last night. They each
suffered single stab wounds in the
shoulder.

Police said the assailant, 20-
year-old Toufik Ali Hamad Awisat
of Jerusalem's Jebel Mukaber
neighborhood, was detained in
August for rioting, painting Ha-
mas slogans, and distributing Ha-
mas pamphlets, but was released
pending charges being filed
against him.

The police spokesman did not
immediately know whether police
had requested he be held longer,
or that, as in most such cases of
minor infraction, they agreed to
let him go until he was charged.

Awisat apparently purchased
the knife he used at the shopping
mall, police said.
Screaming "Allahu Akbar," he
stabbed the two soldiers as they
were sitting on a curb at the bus
stop at the south end of the mall,
witnesses said.

"The terrorist stabbed the first
one in the back, and he fell to the
ground. Then he pulled out the
knife and stabbed the soldier sit-
ting next to him," said Rafi Bourak,
who worked nearby.

The second soldier managed to
get up, and stepping back, he
aimed his gun at the assailant, but
did not open fire, apparently be-
cause of the crowd. Awisat ran up
the street, and then towards a
nearby wadi, with several people
in pursuit.

Two bus drivers, Ya'acov Co-
hen and Arye Barzel, succeeded in
capturing the attacker, witnesses
and police said.

"I saw Ya'acov running after the
terrorist, shooting in the air," Bar-
zel said. "I got into my bus, and
started driving after him. I picked
up Ya'acov on the way," he added.

But the two lost sight of the
assailant, and began driving
around in search of him. "I re-
membered he was wearing a white
shirt, and then all of a sudden saw
him walking around, looking inno-
cent, by the side of the road,"
Cohen said.

"I pointed my gun at him and
told him to halt or I'd shoot," Co-
hen said. "He lay on the ground,
and the bloody knife was still in his
hand," he added.

Others that had joined in the
chase quickly converged, and tried
to beat the attacker, police said.
But before he was could be
handed, police officers - who hap-
pened to be in the area in response
to a call regarding a theft in the
mall - arrived and carried him
onto the bus, locking the doors to
keep the angry crowd out.

The assailant, a construction
worker who carries an Israeli ID
card, as do most Arab residents of
the capital, was later transferred to
a police vehicle and taken to the
south Jerusalem police station for
interrogation.

"We have been expecting an at-
tack for some time, as have most
of the other malls in the country,"
(Continued on Page 2)

Centenarian confounds computer

A 101-YEAR-OLD Jerusalemite
threw a medical care company's
computer for a loop this week
when he took out a subscription to
the service.

The elderly gentleman took out
a two-year membership with the
Natali company, which specializes
in providing treatment to heart pa-
tients. When his personal data was
plugged into the company's com-
puter, it flashed: "data error." A
check revealed that the man's year
of birth, 1893, simply did not ap-
pear in the computer's program.

A Natali spokesman said the
problem was overcome, and that
they wish their 101-year-old client
a long and healthy life. (RM)



African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela is all smiles after voting in an election yesterday for the first time in his life. He cast his vote in Inanda, about 15 kilometers from Durban. (AP)

31 arrested in SA bombings; heavy poll causes disruptions

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - Police
said they crushed a right-wing
bombing spree yesterday, but
South Africa's historic election
came under new threat of collapse
from the sheer number of voters
and a shortage of ballots.

South African Police dramati-
cally announced 31 arrests, includ-
ing members of the notorious neo-
Nazi Afrikaner Resistance
Movement, in their bid to end a
string of panic-sowing bombings
that have killed 21 and wounded
more than 170 since Sunday. The
latest explosion wounded 18 peo-
ple at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts
Airport yesterday morning.

The bombers' aim clearly was
"to derail the election process,"
said Gen. Johan Van Der Merwe,
the national police commissioner.
"We've got good reason to believe
that the persons we have arrested
are the brains behind the terror
blast."

But even if the bombing stops,
white conservative leader Con-
stand Viljoen said delays and bun-
gles were turning the vote that will
transfer power to the country's
black majority into "an embar-
rassment of world proportions."

Inkatha Freedom Party leader
Mangosuthu Buthe threatened
to pull his party out unless officials
agreed to extend the three-day
balloting to solve the glitches.
Buthe's party did not agree to
contest the election until April 19,
and one of the main problems that

emerged yesterday was that pol-
ling places lacked the stickers used
to add Inkatha to the ballot.

Writing in Inkatha, as some
polling officials suggested, would
not work, said Buthe, because
many of his supporters were illit-
erate and their ballot secrecy would
be violated if they got help.

There were other problems,
too. Some polling places ran out of



invisible ink being applied to vot-
ers' hands so that they cannot vote
twice. The ink is read with an ul-
traviolet lamp. Other polling spots
lacked either lamps or electricity
to run them.

In other places, ballots never
arrived. In the violence-ravaged
East Rand near Johannesburg, a
truck carrying ballots to voting sta-
tions in Kaitshong was hijacked -
not an unusual event in those
parts.

Election officials also admitted

that there might simply be more
South African voters out there
than they had estimated based on
previous censuses. Judge Johann
Krieger, overseeing the vote, or-
dered the printing of 9.3 million
additional ballots.

The army said it would help with
the printing and transport of bal-
lots to areas most in need.

With lines stretching more than
a mile in places and political par-
ties getting angrier, the Indepen-
dent Electoral Commission agreed
to postpone poll closings from 7
p.m. to midnight. Today, the last
of the three days of voting, was
declared a holiday so that more
people could miss work and stand
in line.

The IEC pledged that polling
stations would remain open as
long as needed to accommodate
everyone in line at 7 p.m. today.
That could mean voting lasting un-
til early Friday in many areas.

Despite the frustrations, the eu-
phoria felt by many South Afri-
cans in participating in their first
fully democratic vote manifested
itself in a festive atmosphere.

In Monroeville, outside Johannes-
burg, entrepreneurs sold pizzas
and hot dogs to people in a four-
hour queue. "We have ANC
Cokes, and we have Nationalist
Cokes," called out one hawk
trotting for business across the po-
litical divide.

Election roundup, Page 4

Planning body okays Jewish housing on edge of Jebel Mukaber area

JON IMMANUEL and BILL HUTMAN

THE Jerusalem Regional Planning Committee this
week approved a project to build 395 housing units
on the edge of the Arab village of Jebel Mukaber in
the eastern part of the capital.

The plan for 31 buildings which would house
more than 1,000 people was presented to the com-
mittee a year ago.

Most of the land between Jebel Mukaber and
East Talpote on which the project is planned was
bought by a Jew named Aboud Levy in 1920. His
son Avi Levy, who lives abroad, is planning the
development with entrepreneur Jack Nasser.

Jebel Mukaber residents say that some of the
land was expropriated by the government for pub-
lic purposes. The Shkirat family which owned the
expropriated land went to court to protest its use
for a hotel, said Sarah Kaminker, a city planner and
former city council member, who opposed the project
when it was brought before the council.

An-Nahar ran the story on its
back page yesterday with a large map of the project
and the headline: "Plan for settling the edge of
Jebel Mukaber."

The project has not yet passed the final hurdle. It
must still be approved by Eli Suissa, the head of the
Interior Ministry's Jerusalem district. He in turn
must receive approval from acting Interior Minister
Yitzhak Rabin.

when ultra-nationalist Vladimir
Zhirinovskiy did better than ex-
pected in December parliamen-
tary polls.

Speaking at the start of Rabin's
visit to Russia, Prime Minister
Viktor Chernomyrdin said there
was no basis for any wave of anti-
semitism, and Jewish people need
not fear one.

"I can say unambiguously that it
will not happen," he told reporters
earlier this week. "There will be
no antisemitism and no fascism."

Cairo talks enter final drafting stage

Peres and Sarid to meet Arafat today

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

FOREIGN Minister Shimon
Peres and Environment Minis-
ter Yossi Sarid are to meet with
PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat
and US Secretary of State War-
ren Christopher in Cairo today.

Their meetings are intended
to conclude the agreement on
withdrawal from Gaza and Jeri-
cho. If an agreement is
reached, Prime Minister Yitz-
hak Rabin will travel to Cairo
next week for the signing.

Early this morning, Peres,
Sarid, and chief negotiator Am-
non Shahak were to meet with Ra-
bin, who was scheduled to return
from Russia late last night, before
leaving for Cairo. Shahak arrived
from Cairo last night to participate
in the preparatory consultations.

The three are to remain in Cairo
through the weekend in an at-
tempt to finalize the agreement.

"Everybody is working day and
night. The Israeli delegation, for
the first time, will remain here all
through this weekend," chief PLO
negotiator Nabil Sha'ath said.

Foreign Ministry sources said a
tentative schedule for Peres's
meetings in Cairo has been set,

and he is expected to meet with
President Hosni Mubarak, For-
eign Minister Amr Moussa, Chris-
topher, and Arafat. Peres and
Arafat met five times in Bucharest
last week in an effort to overcome
the remaining obstacles to an
agreement.

Christopher, who concluded his
meetings in Saudi Arabia yester-
day, arrived in Cairo last night. He
is expected to arrive here this eve-
ning, but his plans could change if
his presence in Cairo is deemed
necessary by the parties, according
to the diplomatic sources.

Sha'ath said the Cairo negotia-
tions are at the stage of "final
drafting and final redrafting" of
the agreement. "These meetings
will show the world that an agree-
ment is imminent," he said. "I feel
there are very few areas which can
cause real problems."

Earlier, a PLO official and Pal-
estinian sources said the two sides
are near agreement on the freeing
of prisoners and the question of
legal jurisdiction over Israelis and
foreigners arrested in Palestinian-
controlled areas.

"To be able to provide security
to our people and neighbors, we
should have full authority," Faisal
Husseini said. "If authority is lack-

ing, then control will be lacking...
We hope the Israelis will under-
stand this."

Husseini said the two sides
agreed that Palestinians would
handle cases of Israelis arrested
for minor offenses in Gaza and
Jericho, and Israel would handle
major offenses. He said a foreign-
er detained by Israeli police would
be interrogated by them, but
turned over to the Palestinians if
charges were filed. Israeli diplo-
matic sources confirmed Hus-
seini's remarks.

Defense sources refused to com-
ment on news agency reports quot-
ing a Palestinian source who said
the two sides agreed in principle
on freeing most of the 8,400 Pal-
estinian prisoners Israel is holding,
including some Hamas members.

"We very much doubt the accu-
racy of this alleged agreement, es-
pecially the part about Hamas
members being freed," one source
said. "Our position has been and is
that prisoners held for violent of-
enses will not be released."

The sides have agreed in prin-
ciple that three weeks after the
agreement takes effect, several
thousand prisoners - 5,000 accord-
ing to unconfirmed reports from
Cairo - will be released.

Sha'ath likely to gain financially if Gaza/Jericho deal is reached

Arafat promise to employ negotiator's investment firm reported

BILL HUTMAN

CHIEF Palestinian negotiator Na-
bil Sha'ath is likely to make a lot of
money if a final Gaza/Jericho
agreement is reached, raising
questions of conflict of interest, an
extensive investigation by The Je-
rusalem Post shows.

PLO sources said Yasser Arafat
has already promised that the in-
tern Palestinian government will
employ Sha'ath's consulting and
investment company, Team
International.

The company, founded by
Sha'ath in 1975, is based in Cairo
and has branches in 10 Arab
states, the US, and most recently
the territories.

Three company officials recently
visited the territories to see the
transfer of authority from the
civil administration to the Pal-
estinians. The delegation was head-
ed by Sha'ath's son, Ali.

Team officials told the Post the
delegation was sent here by Nabil
Sha'ath with Arafat's knowledge.
It was to report back to the Pal-
estinian negotiating team which
Sha'ath heads.

Company officials denied Team
was paid to compile the report.
PLO sources, however, said the
company was paid, but that most
of the money went to cover the
cost of the visit.

The officials readily admit that
working for Sha'ath's company
gives them a leg up on the compe-
tition. They expect to work with
the interim Palestinian authority
and Israeli companies, both within
Israel and in the territories.

During their visit, the Team of-
ficials met with officials of the
three major computer companies
that work with the civil adminis-
tration, Malam, Digital, and an
Team, an Israeli company not re-
lated to Sha'ath's.

"People see Team in its relation
to Nabil Sha'ath," said Moham-
med Halayka, manager of Team
International's Jerusalem office.
"They want to do business with
Team, and the Palestinian national
authority. They think that it is
worth meeting with Team, be-
cause it is owned by Nabil
Sha'ath."

Sha'ath was unavailable for
comment this week. He was busy
with an intensive round of talks in
Cairo, an aide said.

PLO sources said Sha'ath, earli-
er this week, had asked Arafat to
issue a formal statement defending
him against those who say he is
trying to advance personal busi-
ness interests while heading the
Palestinian negotiating team.

Criticism in Palestinian circles
has been growing against Sha'ath's
alleged insensitivity to the con-
flicts of interests his position cre-
ates. But some of the criticism is
also sparked by internal political
squabbling and unhappiness with
the direction the peace talks have
taken.

"I think [Team's role in setting
up the Palestinian self-govern-
ment] should be open to criti-
cism," said Haidar Abdel-Shafi,
head of the Palestinian peace de-
legation to the Washington talks. He
declined to comment further on
the matter.

Few Palestinian leaders will
speak publicly about Sha'ath and
Team, because of Sha'ath's pre-
sent close relations with Arafat.

"Everyone has his institution or
business that he is trying to push
forward. For Sha'ath it is Team,"
said one PLO official.

The PLO's hiring of companies
on a non-competitive basis has be-

come commonplace over the
years, with jobs being given to
those close to the organization, the
official said. Only now, on the eve
of the establishment of a Pal-
estinian government, are eyebrows be-
ing raised by the practice, he
added.

Since the signing of the Wash-
ington accord in September,
Sha'ath has worked to better po-
sition his company in the territories.
In November, a Team Interna-
tional office was opened in Gaza,
and in February, in Jerusalem.

Unlike many of the other
branches of Team throughout the
Arab world, the Jerusalem and
Gaza offices are directly owned by
the Cairo-based Team Interna-
tional, of which Sha'ath is chair-
man of the board.

The Jerusalem headquarters in
Shuafat is in a well-furnished
apartment, where Team Interna-
tional plans to begin classes for
Palestinian businessmen, accord-
ing to Halayka.

The company's deputy director-
general Sayid Kudri was quoted in
yesterday's Al-Quds as saying
Team is planning to move its main
office to the territories once a
peace agreement is signed.

"We are waiting patiently for the
minute of the signing of a Pal-
estinian-Israeli agreement in order
to move our headquarters to the
homeland," Kudri was quoted as
saying.

"It's a conflict of interest," said
Zakaria Qaq, codirector of the Is-
raeli-Palestine Center for Research
and Information. "Things should
not be done this way. It is only
natural for Palestinians to look
suspiciously at such action."

The full story of Sha'ath's finan-
cial involvement will appear in to-
morrow's Jerusalem Post.

Warning strike by academics

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE country's university stu-
dents, who only a few weeks ago
returned to their classrooms fol-
lowing an extended faculty strike,
again face the threat of a profes-
sors' strike.

In what they described as a
warning measure, the academic
staff is to hold a one-day walkout
on Monday.

Only classroom lectures are to
be affected.

A spokesman for the professors
said the strike is to protest the fact
that the agreement between the
faculty organizations and the
Committee of University Heads
and the Finance Ministry, has yet
to be signed by the employers.

The professors also said that a
new wage scale drawn up by the
Council for Higher Education's
planning and budget committee
does not follow the agreed
guidelines.

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Bills on Golan concessions defeated

THE coalition easily defeated two bills that would have required a majority of 80 MKs for territorial concessions on the Golan, after Shas voted with the government yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Likud, Tsomet, and the National Religious Party submitted no-confidence motions which are to be debated on Monday.

The two bills on the Golan were proposed by Yitzhak Levy (NRP) and Uzi Landau (Likud).

Levy said his bill was necessary despite Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's promise to hold a referendum before giving back significant portions of the Golan, because Rabin could not be trusted to keep his promise.

"The prime minister is the biggest penitent in the nation," he said. "He repents of every

statement he makes."

In no European country, he continued, is it possible to give up territory with only a simple majority.

"The Golan is Syrian territory!" interrupted Abdel Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party), creating a mini-storm among the opposition.

"According to Israeli law, the Golan is part of Israel," Levy retorted.

"What do you want from Darawshe, when Jews, MKs, and ministers, say the same?" demanded Dov Shilansky (Likud).

Later, Deputy Defense Minister Morechai Gur and Emanuel Zissman (Labor) appeared to prove Shilansky's point, interrupting Levy's speech to shout that Israel does not claim sovereignty over the Golan. The law annexing

EVELYN GORDON

Jerusalem includes the word "sovereignty," they said, but the law annexing the Golan does not.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who responded for the government, also stressed this point. Even Likud leaders, such as former prime minister Menachem Begin and former defense minister Moshe Arens, had said the law annexing the Golan would not stand in the way of negotiations with the Syrians over its fate, he claimed.

The greatest uproar, however, was created by Landau's speech.

"The prime minister has suffered from chronic nicotine poisoning since his attack [of the disease] on May 23, on the eve of the 1967 war," he opened, and then proceeded to quote an

unflattering description of Rabin's behavior during the war from a book by President Ezer Weizman.

Coalition MKs erupted in fury at this personal attack, with almost every coalition MK in the room screaming at once and virtually drowning out Landau's speech for several minutes.

"You're poisoning brains!" shouted Benny Temkin (Meretz). "Take it back!" demanded Rafi Elul (Labor).

Both bills were later defeated, by votes of 57-47 and 57-46-1. All of the Shas MKs who were present — including the party's most hawkish member, Aryeh Gamliel — voted with the coalition.

Later in the day, the Likud, Tsomet, and NRP all submitted no-confidence motions in the government.

The Likud said its motion was based on the government's failure to safeguard vital national interests during the negotiations with the PLO.

"The government's intent to sign the agreement with the PLO despite the chief of General Staff's declaration [in the foreign affairs and defense committee on Tuesday] that 'the PLO and Hamas have identical goals regarding Israel' necessitates a vote of no-confidence," the party said in a press release.

Tsomet and the NRP based their motion on the government's "poor performance in the fight against terror following the revelation of a cooperation agreement between the PLO and Hamas," and on its overall policy, which "endangers the existence of the state."

IAF attacks Hizbullah base

MARJAYOUN (AP) — IAF planes struck a Hizbullah base in south Lebanon yesterday. Security sources in south Lebanon said two fighter-bombers fired two missiles into the hills of Mbita in Iqlim al-Tuffah, or Apple Province, a Hizbullah stronghold. There was no immediate report of casualties in the 2:20 p.m. attack.

In Jerusalem an IDF spokeswoman confirmed the raid, saying pilots had reported "good hits on their targets," which she described as Hizbullah training bases and jumping-off points for attacks.

"The warplanes struck bases at Jebel Shafi, an area entirely under Hizbullah control. All the aircraft returned safely to their bases," she said.

The air raid came a few hours

after Hizbullah gunmen fired five rocket-propelled grenades and dozens of rounds of machine gun fire at a post manned by the South Lebanese Army. The sources said there were no casualties in the early morning attack on the SLA Hamra outpost in the western sector of the security zone.

The SLA struck back with 155mm. howitzers on the villages of Mansoura, Zibqin, and Majdel Zoun facing Hamra.

In ensuing exchanges, Israeli and SLA forces blasted Hizbullah positions facing the central sector of the security zone with 50 rounds of artillery, tank, and rocket fire.

Hizbullah gunmen retaliated by firing several 122mm. Katyusha rockets on IDF and SLA positions in the hills of Sojod, Rihan, and Ghizlan.

Gaza commander meets senior Hamas member

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

THE commander of the IDF forces in the Gaza Strip, Brig.-Gen. Doron Almog, yesterday met Muhsen Abu-Ata, a senior Hamas member from Gaza, to discuss the impending Israeli-PLO agreement and the Hamas-PLO relationship.

Military sources confirmed that the meeting was held, stressing that Israel is trying to open a constructive channel to the moderate wing of Hamas, which declared last week in Jordan that it would support the peace process if Israel completely withdrew from the territories.

Some observers and Hamas-watchers in Israel construed the declaration as a signal that a component in Hamas is seeking to join the process.

In the two-hour meeting, Almog said the IDF will continue to battle Hamas if the organization persists in terrorist activities after the implementation of the accord.

Abu-Ata said that Hamas demands the release of jailed Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and hundreds of Hamas prisoners.

Meanwhile, Yassin, who is serving a life sentence for ordering the killing of Israelis and Arabs, said

Hamas would run in "parliamentary" elections under Palestinian self-rule but would otherwise oppose autonomy under the PLO-Israeli accord.

Yassin also said in an interview that Hamas opposition to the accord in Palestinian areas would be non-violent.

"Hamas will not participate in any apparatus of the autonomy authorities," Yassin, said in response to written questions carried through an intermediary. "But we are willing only to take part in parliamentary elections if there are any."

"We will continue to oppose the autonomy in a way to prevent any confrontation, by using only the media and statements and to tell the Palestinian street the truth in order to convince the majority that Islam is the solution," he said.

The PLO and Hamas held a series of meetings in Gaza in the last week focusing on ways to avoid inter-Palestinian bloodshed after self-rule begins.

Asked if Hamas would continue to attack Israeli targets, Yassin replied: "This depends on the range of the Israeli withdrawal." He did not elaborate.

PLO won't pardon suspected collaborators

TUNIS (AP) — The PLO will not pardon hundreds of Palestinians accused of collaboration with Israel, despite pressure from Israel to do so as part of their limited autonomy agreement, a senior official said yesterday.

"All those whose hands are stained with Palestinians' blood or sold their land to the enemy or betrayed the cause are wanted and will be punished," said Jabril Rajoub, a top aide to PLO chief Yasser Arafat.

Israel is seeking pardons for Palestinian collaborators in the talks with the PLO. But Rajoub, who spent 17 years in jail for anti-Israeli activities, said the decision to prosecute collaborators was taken by the PLO's leadership this

week during a meeting of Arafat's mainstream Fatah central committee.

Rajoub, who advises Arafat on security matters, said PLO negotiators told their Israeli counterparts that the issue should be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Palestinian administration to be established in Gaza and Jericho.

"We want to take their cases and those who deserve to be punished will be punished and others will be rehabilitated," he said.

Rajoub left for Cairo yesterday to join the Palestinian negotiators who are expected to discuss the issue with their Israeli counterparts.



Hezi Shai, captured in the same Sultan Yakoub battle as his tank crew comrades Zecharia Baumei, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman, was among the soldiers and commanders involved in the battle who yesterday joined the MIA families protesting outside the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. Shai warned that if Israel failed to get information on its MIAs during the negotiations over autonomy, "it will be too late later on."

(Text: Ilim; Photo: Israel Sun)

Artillery-resistant walls tested by army

ALON PINKAS

THE IDF Home Front Command yesterday tested artillery-resistant walls that, if proven successful, may render shelters obsolete.

In the test, conducted at an IDF proving grounds in the center of the country, artillery shells were fired at two walls, one of reinforced concrete supported by a so-called "ballistic fabric" designed to neutralize the force of an explo-

sive charge, and the second an iron-fiber reinforced wall.

The test results will be analyzed thoroughly, but preliminary findings show that the second wall tested was almost impenetrable and suffered only minor damage.

The test was the second phase of a three-year effort by the Home

Front Command designed to develop resistant walls that would initially serve border areas, and which will gradually be implemented in construction throughout the country in preparation for possible missile attacks.

The objective is to achieve optimal protection in the construction of walls and ceilings, and to test shock-resistant windows.

Pollard sees no hope for '95 parole

SUE FISHKOFF

NEW YORK

JONATHAN Pollard, the US naval intelligence analyst serving a life sentence for spying for Israel, believes it is "virtually inconceivable" he will be paroled when his case comes up for review in October 1995.

"I stand no chance of being released in 1995," he told the Toronto-based Citizens for Justice for Jonathan Pollard and his fiancée, Elaine Zeitz, several weeks ago, in an interview published this week by the *Canadian Jewish News*.

Pollard's last chance of release before his earliest possible parole date was lost when President Bill Clinton denied clemency on March 23.

Pollard is reportedly distressed that Jewish organizations pressing for his release refer to the October '95 parole date as if it were guaranteed. Zeitz told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

"The parole issue is being used as a smoke screen," she said, adding that individuals in the Justice Department and national security agencies opposed to Pollard's release will work diligently to prevent his parole.

"He has already served twice as much time as anyone convicted of a similar crime," she said. "We're only seeking justice under the law."

Seymour Reich, president of the American Zionist Movement and a longtime Pollard supporter, charged the Rabin government with abandoning Pollard.

"The efforts on behalf of Jonathan by the Israeli government should be no less than their efforts for the Israeli MIAs," he said. "Even though he did the wrong

thing [by spying], he can be considered by the Israelis as a soldier in their intelligence community."

Reich noted that government leaders personally appealed to the Americans on Pollard's behalf once last year, and were rebuffed. Still, he said, "it seems to me that the Israeli government could probably get him out if they tried harder, if they raised the stakes."

Pollard attorney Theodore Boutros said he "anticipates a very difficult battle during the parole process," which will not get under way until the fall of '95.

Boutros said that Pollard opponents in the defense, national security, and justice communities "were willing to pull every trick in the book during the clemency process, and that same group will pull the same tricks during the parole process. They will no doubt launch an equally bitter attack."

Int'l Bauhaus conference to be held in TA next month

THOMAS O'DWYER

THE director-general of UNESCO in Paris yesterday said an international architectural conference on Bauhaus architecture would be held in Tel Aviv beginning May 22.

Frederico Mayor told a news conference that Tel Aviv, with the biggest collection of Bauhaus — or International Style — buildings in the world, is the ideal venue for such a meeting.

The modernist Bauhaus movement was outlawed and dispersed by the Nazis, but brought to Israel by European immigrants in the 1930s and 1940s.

Tel Aviv in its early years be-

came the only city ever designed on Bauhaus principles.

The conference will mark a turning point in UNESCO's relations with Israel. The organization has been regarded here for two decades as culturally antagonistic and politically hostile.

The US, which until 1985 provided a quarter of UNESCO's budget, quit in protest at its anti-Western bias.

In 1992, then Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek furiously rejected UNESCO's claim that the capital was being destroyed "as a result of Israeli occupation, by acts of interference, destruction, and transformation."

TWO SOLDIERS

(Continued from Page One)

said Arik Arad, director-general of the Jerusalem Mall. The mall has been a popular attraction since opening last year.

Arad said police patrols had been beefed up around the mall, and that the private security service employed by the mall also added more guards, in anticipation of an attack.

"I don't think that this is going to hurt business," Arad said.

Itm adds: A Border Police officer last night shot and moderately wounded an Arab woman who had tried to stab him at a guard post in the Sagaiya neighborhood of Gaza City.

The border policeman was not hurt. The woman was taken to an Israeli hospital for treatment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ethics panel reprimands Labor MK

The Knesset ethics committee yesterday reprimanded Ra'anana Cohen (Labor) for making unsupported accusations against Avraham Shapira (United Tora Judaism) in the press. Cohen had accused Shapira of using bank loans intended to rescue his Carmel Carpets conglomerate for real estate deals in the US, and of failing to cooperate with Carmel Carpets' operating receiver.

Shapira convinced the committee that both accusations were unfounded: The first was based on an article in *Mu'ariv*, which the newspaper later retracted, and the second was refuted by the receiver himself.

Teacher sentenced for coke smuggling

A veteran teacher and special education counselor, convicted of smuggling cocaine into the country from Holland, was sentenced to 30 months in prison and 30 months probation by Haifa District Court yesterday.

Eti Shalom, 42, of Kiryat Ata, who worked with youthful offenders and the learning disabled, was hired to bring 100 gm. of cocaine in on a flight from Holland. She was to be paid \$1,500. Itm

US, Gulf states line up against Iraq

The United States and the Persian Gulf oil states agreed yesterday to maintain the trade restrictions on Iraq and to back peacemaking efforts in the Middle East.

In an unusually strong statement read by the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud, the Gulf nations said they agreed to keep alert about Iraq.

The statement was issued after Secretary of State Warren Christopher met with Saud, and then for over an hour minutes with King Fahd, on the first leg of his Middle East trip.

Christopher thanked the king for his "firm support" for the Mideast peace process and denounced Iraq as continuing its violation of UN Security Council resolutions. AP

Awards distributed for best advertisements

The Reuveni-Fridan advertising company took first prize in last night's 1994 Israel Advertising Competition, for its campaign for Castro fashions. The Arieli advertising firm won second prize for its campaign for the Toto soccer pools and took third prize for its ads for Bank Leumi.

The Tamir-Cohen firm won for best advertisement screened at movie theaters for its Kif-Kef ad for Elite, while Paradiso Productions took first prize for television advertising for its Castro model spot.

IDF: We have gunman who shot Mizrahi

JON IMMANUEL

THE IDF yesterday announced that the gunman who shot soldier Leon Mizrahi in Nabulus on Saturday was captured the same day and identified as a Hamas supporter.

Mizrahi was shot in the neck and severely wounded when shots were fired at his lookout post from the Nabulus post office near the police station.

The suspected gunman, Hassan Mustafa Zaja, 18, was caught in Anabta, near Tulkarm. He went there to receive medical treatment

for a leg wound he sustained when soldiers shot him as he fled.

The IDF said the alertness of soldiers in Anabta led to Zaja's capture.

It did not explain why the announcement of his arrest was delayed by three days.

Yesterday 11 Palestinian former Fatah fugitives returned home from Jordan across the Allenby Bridge. The arrival of another seven due to arrive in Gaza from Egypt was delayed.

Foreign donors to meet on Palestinian project aid

JON IMMANUEL

FOREIGN donors are to meet on May 15 to discuss distributing aid for projects approved by the Palestinian Economic Development Agency (PECDAR), its deputy chairman, Hassan Abu Libdeh, said yesterday.

PECDAR's board of governors will meet six days earlier to select 90 public utility projects that require immediate aid money.

Abu Libdeh said at a press conference that donors have so far pledged \$123 million to cover a Palestinian budget deficit.

About \$2.4 billion was raised in an international conference in Washington last year sponsored by the World Bank.

There has been concern among many Palestinians and donor countries that the aid agency is to be headed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, fueling speculation that money might be used for political purposes and not for purely economic development.

Much of the aid money will be

forthcoming only after the PLO signs the autonomy agreement.

In the *Al-Kuds* daily yesterday, the chairman of the Palestinian elections committee, Saeb Erekat, said that elections to a Palestinian Administrative Council to take over from the civil administration will be held on October 15, three months after the date specified in the Oslo accords.

He was quoted as saying that the European Community had promised technical and financial help for the elections which would require 6,000 supervisors, 1,500 polling stations and \$44 million.

The PLO has asked Israel for census information on the Palestinians, Erekat said.

Abu Libdeh, a professional statistician on the election board as well as on PECDAR, has said that one of the main problems of the elections, as in all economic planning, will be to provide a population register.

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

Women's Studies Program

The public is invited to the

"Virginia Sinitow" Lectures Series

Nitza Yanai Ph.D. — Ben-Gurion University

will lecture on:

Gender and Identity: Interpretation or Deconstruction

The lecture will be given on April 29, 1994 at 10 a.m.

Room 701 — Main Building

The lecture will be in Hebrew

Sponsored by "Women to Women/U.S.A.-Israel"

THE JERUSALEM POST WELCOME HOME FUND

Immigration and absorption are tough enough, even for the strongest among us. And it's great if you can overcome the problems of culture shock, sudden illiteracy, isolation, unemployment and alienation — all by yourself.

But most do need help. The Jerusalem Post Welcome Home Fund provides new immigrants from Ethiopia, the former Soviet Union and other lands with appliances, bedding, heaters, clothing, shoes and school supplies. We also give vital grants for dental and medical care, tutoring and higher education.

So, if you think new immigrants should help themselves, do something which encourages just that. Give to The Jerusalem Post Welcome Home Fund. P.O. Box 81, 91000 Jerusalem, Israel.

WELCOME HOME FUND

Attacks Lah base

After Hizbullah gunmen fired five rocket-propelled grenades and fired at a post manned by the South Lebanese Army. The sources said there were no casualties in the early morning attack on the SLA's Hamra outpost in the western sector of the security zone.

The SLA struck back with 100mm howitzers on the villages of Mansoura, Zabqin, and Majdel Zoun facing Hamra.

In exchange, Israeli forces blasted Hizbullah positions facing the central sector of the security zone with 50 rounds of 100mm, 120mm, and 122mm. Hizbullah gunmen retaliated by firing several 122mm Katyusha rockets on IDF and SLA positions in the hills of Soged, Rihan, and...

ave gunman t Mizrahi

AMANUEL

A 19-year-old Mizrahi was shot in the leg when soldiers shot him as he fled.

The IDF said the alertness of soldiers in Anabta led to Zaki's capture.

It did not explain why the announcement of his arrest was delayed by three days.

Yesterday 11 Palestinian former Fatah fugitives returned home from Jordan across the Al-Bayda Bridge. The arrival of another seven was due to arrive in Gaza from Egypt was delayed.

ors to meet on project aid

AMANUEL

After the PLO and the Israeli government agreed to a daily meeting, the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government will meet tomorrow to discuss the aid project.

The meeting will be held at the PLO headquarters in Ramallah. It will be the first of a series of meetings between the two sides.

The aid project is a joint effort to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people. It includes the construction of roads, bridges, and schools.

The project is funded by the Israeli government. It is expected to create thousands of jobs for the Palestinian people.

STY OF HAIFA

an-Gurion University

Interpretation or

uction

WELCOME HOME FUND

...and description are... And it's great... the problems... sudden illiteracy... and school... give vital grants... medical care... education... help... something which... Give to The... Israel.

Fiber-optic cable provides link to Egypt

JUDY SIEGEL

INAUGURATING a direct fiber-optic cable link with Egypt, Bezek Director-General Yitzhak Kaul yesterday called for the establishment of a Middle East telecommunications organization to promote regional cooperation in the region.

Kaul, who with Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni is attending the Africa-Telecom '94 exhibition in Cairo, made the statement in a videoconference using the cable that links Jerusalem and Tel Aviv with the Egyptian capital.

Until now, calls between the two countries were routed via Italy. The direct link will save Bezek the expense of the third party and improve service. The overland fiber-optic cable is also a potential telecommunications link to the Arab world and the Far East.

Kaul said that a regional telecommunications organization would ensure proper coordination among the countries in the area, as well as the establishment of high-quality infrastructure and joint financial projects. He noted that Middle Eastern countries are expected to spend \$13.5 billion on telecommunications before the end of the decade.

"Beztek will be able to help other countries to skip an entire technological generation and reach the level accepted in the Western world. Israel will be able to serve as a transfer point for undersea cable systems to the rest of the world," he said.

Beztek has offered the Palestinians a series of proposals for cooperation, including a joint telecommunications company and serving as a contractor for planning and development of services in the autonomous areas.

Kaul said that Israeli telecommunications companies exhibiting at the Cairo event have aroused much interest. "Only a few countries, such as Iran, refuse to speak to us," he said.

The videoconference gave Beztek workers sent to Cairo for the exhibition and their families to "reunite": the wife of one staffer who left for Cairo a few days ago saw her and their three-month-old child over the line, while the wife of another Beztek worker brought his elderly father to say hello before the videoconference officially began.

Panel discusses separating remanded juveniles

RAINE MARCUS

THE ministerial committee on legislation yesterday discussed conditions under which juvenile prisoners are kept, in an attempt to assure that remanded juveniles be held separately from other inmates.

The committee, headed by Justice Minister David Liba'i, discussed two private bills proposed by MKs David Magen, Avraham Hershenson, and Shaul Yahalom that would keep young remand prisoners segregated from other inmates during the first 48 hours of their incarceration.

The proposed bills follow the report of a case by the state comptroller in February, in which a minor was sexually abused by his cell mates, who were veteran offenders.

A police representative told the committee an investigation found that no sexual abuse took place in that case. He argued that the proposed bills are not realistic, since there is a shortage of space in police lock-ups and there are not enough cells to segregate young offenders.

Some 102 juveniles in remand occupy 23 cells in lock-ups containing 110 beds designated for young offenders, said the representative.

Liba'i said the committee should investigate whether funds can be made available to provide more such beds, and said the issue would be further debated next month.



Prof. Kalman Mann, head of Yad Sarah's presidium, conducts Reuma Weizman, wife of the president, on a tour of Yad Sarah headquarters in Jerusalem yesterday. The visit was Weizman's way of congratulating the organization, which supplies urgent services for the elderly, sick, and handicapped, on winning this year's Israel Prize. The NIS 30,000 that accompanied the award will be used to purchase respiratory equipment for needy children. (Text: Judy Siegel; Photo: Sarit Ushkity)

Social workers dismiss Granit claim

SASHA SADAN

THE Tel Aviv headquarters of the country's 9,000 social workers, on strike for eight days, last night dismissed Treasury wage director Shalom Granit's efforts to obtain a restraining order as baseless. The hearing on Granit's request will be heard this morning by the Jerusalem Labor Court.

Union leader Eli Ben-Gera said the restraining order is being sought on the grounds the strike is illegal and causing irreversible damage to the public. He repeated that the strike was declared legally, saying the work dispute preceding the strike last May was never resolved.

Ben-Gera said that even the parts of the accord that had been finalized have not been fulfilled. He blamed the Treasury for any suffering the strike has caused the public.

The union said it is ready for intensive negotiations without preconditions, but Granit has refused to negotiate as long as the strike continues.

Social workers were not allowed to intervene yesterday in the case of two Beduin girls accused by relatives of disgracing family honor - a potentially dangerous situation inasmuch as such incidents often end in murder.

Everlyn Gordon adds: Nine MKs from across the political spectrum yesterday submitted motions to the agenda regarding the strike. All agreed that the social workers suffer from low wages and poor working conditions.

"This is one of the weak sectors of society," said Taleb a-Sana'a (DAP).

However, some said that Namir should nevertheless issue restraining orders against the workers. Namir rejected this request, saying she prefers to work via other avenues to find a solution to the problem.

"The social workers' struggle to improve their wages and working conditions is legitimate," she explained. "Some 50% of them receive income supplements [from the National Insurance Institute]."



IDF Chief Chaplain Maj.-Gen. Gad Navon carries a Tora scroll during its installation at the synagogue of Beit Goldmintz, the Education Corps facility in Netanya. (Jeremy Feldman/Israel Sun)

Murder suspect fit to stand trial

SHIMSHOL YAKOBov, 37, accused of murdering 10-year-old Timor Mamadov, whose body was found in an abandoned Haifa movie theater in December, understands the charges against him and is capable of standing trial, a Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs unit assigned to evaluate him told Haifa District Court yesterday.

Yakovov's lawyer had contended his client has diminished mental capacity, which makes it difficult for him to function.

The evaluation committee consisted of a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a senior social worker, and an educator.

The defense asked that the tape of the accused's reenactment of the crime and his confession be invalidated, saying they were obtained by force. (Itim)

Historical preservation group marks 10th anniversary

LIAT COLLINS

THE Council for the Preservation of Historical Buildings and Monuments celebrated its 10th anniversary with a ceremony at Beit Hanassi last night.

Throughout the coming week schoolchildren will be taught about monuments and historical sites in their neighborhoods and some 80 sites and museums will run special exhibitions on recent history.

The council deals with sites related to Zionist history and enterprises.

Among the highlights of the week will be a discussion Monday on "Roots in Petah Tikva," focusing on the razing of historical buildings in the area and a conference at Kibbutz Merhavia Tuesday on the image of the pioneer, marking the 90th anniversary of the Second Aliya.

The council was formed in 1984 at the Knesset's recommendation. It is a branch of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

"We are very good at preserving archaeological findings from thousands of years ago, but we are lacking when it comes to sites of modern historic importance," said council chairman Shlomo Hillel recently.

One example of the razing of a modern historical site was the Herzliya Gymnasium, which was torn down for a building project and is today the council's symbol.

Kinneret level is below red line

LIAT COLLINS

THE recent sharav (heat wave) conditions have caused a drop of 5.5 centimeters in the level of Lake Kinneret during the last two weeks, according to Water Commissioner Gideon Tsur. Another brief sharav is expected to start today.

The water level yesterday stood at 209.20 meters below sea level, which is 30 cm. below the red line, but still not cause for serious concern, Tsur said yesterday.

The drop in the water level started two months ahead of the expected time, Tsur said.

There were several reasons for the drop, including expedited pumping to the National Water Carrier to meet increased demand, increased evaporation from the Kinneret because of the hot weather, and slow flow in the lake's tributaries.

The flow in the upper reaches of the Jordan River registered 17.4 cu.m. a second in the last few days, compared to 23 cu.m. a second this time last year and 52 cu.m. a second two years ago.

Tsur said that despite the drop in the Kinneret's level, the country's water situation is good due to the heavy rains of the previous two years, although the level of subterranean water supplies has also dropped. But he announced a 10%-20% cut in the agricultural water allowance because of the lack of rain during the past winter.

The largest cut is to farmers who receive their water from wells along the coastal aquifer. The water allowance to consumers in the Arab sector and Jordan valley will not be cut, he said.

Water Commission data show that during the first three months of the year agricultural needs amounted to 120 million cu.m. compared to 95 cu.m. the previous year.

Meanwhile, Tsur announced he had appointed a joint Water Commission-Mekorot team to deal with the transfer of water management to the Palestinian Water Authority in the autonomous areas. Water drilling in the autonomous areas will be managed by Palestinians and the rest of the water needs there will be met by purchasing water at cost price from Mekorot, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jerusalem jeweler robbed

Robbers took gold jewelry worth some \$72,000 yesterday morning from a jewelry store in Jerusalem's Old City.

The store owner told police two young men, and a woman came to his store and offered to sell or exchange some jewelry. He took them to another store he owns and when he opened the safe to show them samples, one of the men drew a gun and forced him into the bathroom, where they sprayed him with tear gas.

The three then emptied the safe and fled. Itim

Haredim beat archeology worker

Assaf Kloner, an employee of the Antiquities Authority, was attacked and injured in the jaw yesterday afternoon by haredim at an archeological dig at Modi'in.

Kloner was collecting crates of artifacts the authority had dug up in the area, where thousands of housing units are to be built, when he was beaten and cursed by the haredim. When he ran to his car to escape them, they also stoned his car.

The authority has filed a complaint with police.

6 held in stolen credit card scam

Six Kiryat Shmona residents were arrested yesterday on suspicion of purchasing NIS 200,000 of goods with stolen credit cards they brought with them from the US.

Four of the suspects spent several years in the US and recently returned here. The Visa company reported the matter to the police when they determined the purchases were made with stolen credit cards. The suspects' remand was extended by a Kiryat Shmona court and the investigation is continuing, police said. Itim

Sela elected to Russian academy

Weizmann Institute President Prof. Michael Sela has been elected a foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences "in recognition of his scientific merits," Prof. Yuri Osipov, president of the academy, said he is sure Sela's election would further strengthen ties between Russian and Israeli scientists. Sela is already a member of the academies of sciences of Israel, the US, Germany, Romania, and the Vatican.

ITV opens studio in Haifa

Israel Television yesterday opened a studio complex in Haifa's Hadar Hacarmel section. Its three cameras, two editing rooms, offices, and radio studios will serve Kol Yisrael in Hebrew and Arabic and permit the forwarding of prepared and edited material for broadcast. Till now, material filmed or recorded in the North was sent by taxi to Jerusalem for editing.

Ministry invests in Golan

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar has authorized the investment of NIS 750,000 in Jewish settlements on the Golan Heights, the ministry announced yesterday.

In a meeting with heads of the Golan Regional Council, Kessar said that until any new political arrangement for the area is decided upon, the government has an obligation to supply the needs of its residents.

Among the projects to be funded are a pedestrian bridge at the Bnei Yehuda regional center, bus stations for school pupils, safety railings, and road repairs.

Probation for beating mother

An Ashdod man who beat his 70-year-old mother was sentenced to a year's probation and ordered to pay her NIS 250 in damages by Ashdod Magistrates Court yesterday.

Police said Binyamin Rosenberg, 40, "forced his mother to sleep in the street for several days after cruelly beating her" with a stick. The court took the fact the mother said she forgave her son into consideration in passing sentence. Itim

Ministry driver's petition rejected

The High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition by Freddy Greenberg, Police Ministry director-general Ya'acov Lapidot's former driver, who claimed he was fired for revealing Lapidot forced him to go on private errands.

Lapidot said Greenberg was not fired, but was instead made transportation coordinator for the ministry, because he did not meet the requirements for the driver's job.

The High Court rejected the petition, saying the matter should be resolved by a labor court, and ordered him to pay legal fees and NIS 3,000 in court fees.

Jupiter visible Saturday night

The planet Jupiter will be clearly visible in Israel's skies in the eastern-to-southeastern skies on Saturday night until early Sunday morning. The phenomenon is possible due to the fact that it will be located "in opposition" to the sun from the angle of the earth.

Andre Radu Sharban, director of the Jerusalem Astronomical Information Center, says the giant planet has aroused interest because parts of the Shoemaker-Levy comet will enter its atmosphere in late July.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, ace of hearts, nine of diamonds, and king of clubs.

BEZEQ

"JUST WHEN CHANA WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING IMPORTANT, JUST WHEN ROY CALLS FROM THE ARMY... MY MOTHER PHONES ME, MY HUSBAND IS SENDING A FAX TO THE BANK AND URI IS TALKING TO HIS CURRENT GIRLFRIEND. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS BUSY, BUSY, BUSY"



PHONE, AT NO COST, 199 OR FAX 198 AND ORDER A TELEPHONE LINE, BEZEQ WILL DO THE REST AND FAST.

AN ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE LINE - MUCH MORE COMMUNICATION.

New flag is hoisted and main polling begins

TINA SUSMAN

JOHANNESBURG

WITH a new flag heralding the birth of democracy, Nelson Mandela cast the first vote of his life yesterday in an election expected to make him the country's first black president.

But a bomb blasted the international airport, a reminder of militant opposition to the vote, and some polls opened several hours late when voting materials didn't show up in time for the scheduled 7 a.m. start. President F.W. de Klerk and election officials ap-



pealed for patience as lines more than a half-kilometer long formed, from rural KwaZulu homeland to downtown Johannesburg.

"I don't think it will affect the freeness and fairness of the election. What is required is patience by the voters affected," he said, telling reporters that planes and helicopters were being ordered to get voting material to places they were needed.

The blast outside the international departure hall at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport injured 18 people, two seriously. Hours later, police announced they had arrested 31 people, including members of a militant white group, in connection with that blast and with several others that have killed at least 21 people since Sunday.

Right-wing extremists have vowed to wage war rather than live under black rule, and the bombings shattered hopes for a peaceful election. But the national police chief, Gen. Johan Van Der Merwe, said the arrests should

Mandela votes for first time in his life



A long line of people from Soweto township outside Johannesburg wait to vote in yesterday's election. The majority of South Africa's 22 million voters went to the polls yesterday. (AP)

serve as a warning to militants that "using violence to achieve their aims is not only futile and pointless, but will ultimately lead to their own destruction."

Polling was peaceful Tuesday, the first day of voting, which was reserved for the sick and invalids. Many voters arrived at polls in wheelchairs and even wheelbarrows in some rural areas. At hospitals, they roused themselves from

sickbeds and hobbled to hospital polls wearing their nightclothes.

Many blacks broke down in tears after making their mark. "We need freedom," said 72-year-old Florence Ndumangele, voting with other elderly people near Cape Town. "We are tired of being slaves."

"It is the beginning of a new era," Mandela said after dropping his ballot into a simple brown box

outside a school founded by John Dube, one of the first ANC leaders. "It is a realization of our hopes and dreams—the dreams of a South Africa which represents all South Africans."

The day dawned with a new flag flying over the nation, and the sounds of a new national anthem lingering in the chilly air. The changeover occurred at midnight in the nine cities that will serve as

provincial capitals under the new, post-apartheid constitution, which took effect yesterday.

The old flag, seen by many blacks as a symbol of white rule, was lowered for the last time at nationally televised ceremonies as the old anthem, "Die Stem" (The Call), was sung.

As the new flag was raised, the anthem of the anti-apartheid movement, "God Bless Africa,"

was sung for the first time as one of the two official national anthems. "Die Stem," an Afrikaans hymn, will remain as the second anthem.

Despite late-arriving ballots and waits so long in some places that people collapsed, the mood among most voters was jubilant.

Lines snaked through white suburbs and black townships. Many people brought folding chairs, warm drinks and breakfast rolls.

In a sign of the changes, many whites showed up to vote with their black domestic workers, who were never before allowed cast ballots.

"It's like Martin Luther King's dream coming true in South Africa," said 21-year-old Vukile Mzamane, who voted in Guguletu outside Cape Town.

The election, set to conclude tonight, will select a national assembly and nine provincial assemblies. The ANC is expected to win about 60 percent of the vote. Second place should go to de Klerk's National Party, which implemented apartheid to separate the races, then dismantled it under growing pressure at home and abroad.

The 75-year-old Mandela, who struggled all his life against apartheid and spent 27 years in prison, is expected to be sworn in as president May 10. He will govern a deeply divided country, with unemployment and illiteracy higher than 50 percent among blacks.

"We have moved from an era of pessimism, division and limited opportunities," said Mandela. "We are starting a new era of hope, of reconciliation, of nation-building."

He vowed to create a multiracial democracy. "I have fought very firmly against white domination. I have fought very firmly against black domination. I cherish the idea of a new South Africa where all South Africans are equal, where all South Africans work together in order to bring about security, peace and democracy."

De Klerk said he was confident "the next five years will be five formative years in which South Africa will establish itself as a country which offers great hope for all its people." (AP)

Zulu leader charges rigging of votes

UMLAZI, South Africa (AP) — Zulu nationalist leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi joined millions of other blacks voting for the first time yesterday, and then called for South Africa's first all-race election to be extended an extra day in Natal Province.

Buthelezi, whose Inkatha Freedom Party is the main black opponent to the election's expected winner, the African National Congress, claimed there was evidence of vote "rigging."

Election observers wearing the identifying armbands of the Independent Electoral Commission rushed to shake Buthelezi's hand when he finished casting his ballot at a stadium named for Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini in the black township just outside Durban.

"The whole struggle of this country has been about franchise," said Buthelezi. "Today, therefore is a historic day. For the first time, my people are exercising their franchise."

Buthelezi initially rejected the election, relenting on a boycott only a week ago in exchange for a constitutional guarantee for the Zulu monarch. Hundreds died in political violence before he joined the campaign.

Inkatha's late entry caused problems for organizers setting up polling stations. Extensive delays were reported in the Natal area, a Zulu stronghold, when voting started Tuesday.



Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi casts his vote at a polling station in the Zulu homeland. (AP)

Buthelezi claimed there was underage voting and harassment of his party's election monitors.

The Independent Election Commission, charged with investigating complaints, so far has characterized polling problems as logistical and said they would be overcome.

17,000 vote in Britain

LONDON (Reuters) — Officials at London's imposing South African Embassy raised the country's new multi-colored post-apartheid flag yesterday to mark the new era of non-racial democracy.

The ornate stone embassy on London's central Trafalgar Square, once the scene of regular anti-apartheid protests, had been mobbed on Tuesday by expatriates and holidaymakers keen to vote in South Africa's first all-race elections.

More than 17,000 South Africans living or traveling in Britain and Ireland voted on Tuesday, poll officials said.

Thousands filed into three voting centers in London on Tuesday — queuing around an entire block at the embassy — but numbers were more sparse at other venues.

A spokeswoman for South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission in London said initial figures showed about 17,500 people voted in London, Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Dublin and on the island of Jersey.

The figures were in line with estimates. Officials said they had expected between 10,000 and 20,000 South Africans living in or visiting Britain to vote.

Supporters of the Anti-Apartheid Movement released 1,000 black, green and gold balloons in Trafalgar Square yesterday to celebrate the start of official voting in South Africa.

Whites take along black servants to make their mark on history

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — Rich white families took their black servants to polling stations yesterday to cast their vote, a mark in South African history.

They all voted together for the first time in scenes of racial amity in Johannesburg's affluent northern suburbs.

Elsewhere in the city the lines were mainly black.

Socialite matrons in luxury cars drove black maids to a school polling station in exclusive Houghton, near Millionaires Row, whose residents now include ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

Then "madam," and sometimes also "baas" (master) headed off for marble-floored shopping malls, regular bridge-playing sessions, air-conditioned gymnasium workouts or golf.

Thousands of other white employees stayed with their domestic staffs, waiting patiently, eagerly, like shoppers for the new product of democracy.

"This will level the ground a little," said gardener Steve, like many servants shy of saying much. "Is your madam here?" a black reporter asked a young woman in maid's outfit of printed headscarf and frock.

"Oh yes," she said. "Up there, in front."

But mostly, black and white stood together, shoulder to shoulder, queuing in baking autumn

heat along avenues lined with scarlet-flowering trees.

The area was festooned with posters for the African National Congress, the Inkatha Freedom Party in one of its strongholds, along with placards for Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and President F.W. de Klerk's National Party.

European women opened the electronic gates of their nearby high-walled mansions and handed out cold drinks and towels for elderly and infirm blacks.

Burly white and black policemen, wearing bullet-proof vests and armed with pistols and machineguns, stood by but these were peaceful crowds.

It was a public holiday with a good-humored, relaxed atmosphere, the leafy avenues forming an almost unreal political arena, remote from South Africa's election carnage and violence. Prospective voters read newspaper headlines like "Vote, the beloved country."

In these white liberal, English-speaking districts, people of all races were determined to make a stand for South Africa's fledgling democracy.

Servants and farm laborers are among South Africa's worst-treated workers, still employed on a semi-feudal basis despite trade union efforts to organize them.

Reasonable conditions depend on employers' goodwill.

Yesterday's vote by masters and servants signaled the new political switch for South Africa, whose black population has long been a pool of cheap labor for European settlers.

In Johannesburg, public transport is minimal and getting about can be dangerous, so for many "live-in" black servants a lift in their employer's car was virtually the only way to vote.

A stream of Mercedes, BMW's and Porsches disgorged an army of maids, nannies and cooks, swelling a round-the-block queue to vote in Houghton primary school's red-draped auditorium, lined with photos of mainly-white classes.

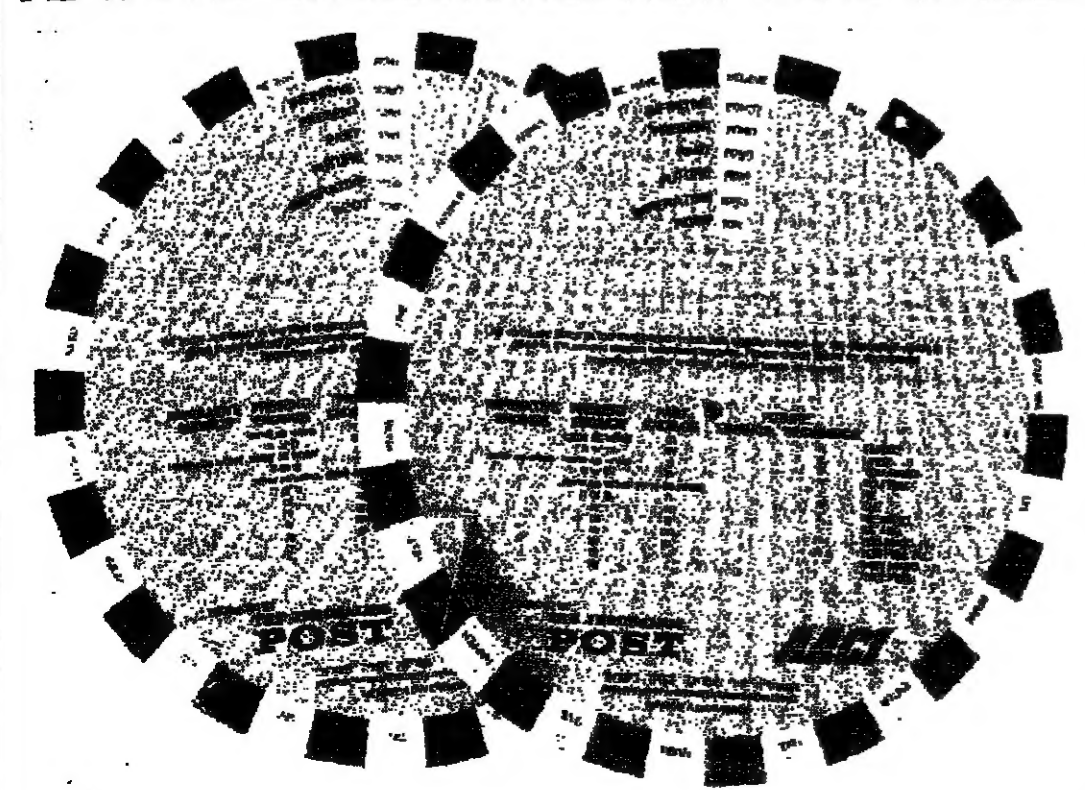
"I am so happy to vote," said Jane Mathe, a maid who accompanied interior designer Carole Segal and husband Michael.

Heather Low, a human resources consultant, and surgeon husband Kobus took along their maid Miriam Mailwane.

Kobus said: "I am also a farmer and have just arranged transport for 30 laborers to vote. They astonished me by saying they would vote for de Klerk. I think they resent what they feel is [other party] intimidation and also it's a case of trust the devil you know rather than one you don't."

Businesswoman Joan Bartlett, accompanying maid Sheila Mmusi, said: "This is all so exciting. For all of us."

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'Auschwitz Lie not covered by free speech'

MARJORIE MILLER

BONN

GERMANY'S highest court ruled on Tuesday that those who spread the "Auschwitz Lie" — the denial that the Holocaust ever took place — are not protected by freedom of speech and may be banned from stating their inaccurate views in public.

The Constitutional Court, Germany's equivalent of the US Supreme Court, said the extermination of 6 million Jews in Hitler's concentration camps was a fact, and Holocaust denial was a "proven untruth."

The court backed the city of Munich, which had threatened to break up a rally by the radical rightist National Democratic Party on March 12, 1991, if the party's guest speaker delivered, as planned, a speech denying the Holocaust had occurred. The party held its rally and its tongue, but later sued the city for violating members' freedom of speech.

But "proven untruthful statements do not have the protection of freedom of speech," Justice Dieter Grimm said after the decision was released in Karlsruhe. "Disavowal of the killing of the Jews during the Third Reich is such a statement. This statement also is an insult to those Jews living in Germany today."

The high court's position would seem to be a reversal of the stand taken by the German appeals court last month, when it ruled in another case that the National Democratic Party's leader, Guntter Deckert, could not be convicted of inciting racial hatred simply for denying the Holocaust. German politicians and national and international Jewish leaders criticized that decision as a step back from existing laws prohibiting dissemination of Nazi ideology.

In Germany, it is illegal to wear a swastika, sell copies of Hitler's book *Mein Kampf*, or to give the Nazi salute. German courts traditionally have considered an individual's denying the Holocaust to be a racist act and linked to racist violence.

Neo-Nazis are a small but radical fringe who have grown bolder in the last four years, lashing out in violent attacks against Jews and foreigners that have left more than 30 foreigners dead. On the eve of Passover last month, a synagogue in the northern town of Luebeck was firebombed, presumably by rightists.

The "Auschwitz Lie," which incorrectly asserts that the Holocaust is merely the invention of Jews and conspiracists, is a favorite theme among neo-Nazis in Germany and the United States.

Jewish leaders have fought to keep this erroneous view out of mainstream historical discussions, particularly as the Holocaust generation dies out and polls show an alarming lack of knowledge among young people about the systematic genocide of World War II.

They greeted the court's decision Tuesday as a positive step.

"The Constitutional Court upheld the threat to ban the rally and that means you can't spout the 'Auschwitz Lie,'" said Rabbi Marvin Heller, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"This is not the American way [of making law] and personally I would prefer greater First Amendment rights for the protection of minorities... But to the extent you now schedule a public rally with speakers propagating the revisionist lie, those people run the risk of going to jail, and to that extent, this will stop it."

Los Angeles Times

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Russian lawmaker dies in mafia-type killing

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The mafia-style shotgun murder of a member of parliament brought the specter of violence back to Russian political life yesterday and raised demands for the sacking of Interior Minister Viktor Yerin.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said the slaying of centrist deputy Andrei Ayazderdzis was a gift for forces that "thirst for blood and power" in Russia but stood by Yerin.

The Duma or lower chamber overwhelmingly approved a call to President Boris Yeltsin to dismiss minister Viktor Yerin and take swift measures to curb rising crime. It said the very future of the Russian state was under threat.

Yeltsin, who has himself on several occasions "declared war" on organized crime, to no noticeable effect, vowed swift retribution for the murder of centrist deputy Andrei Ayazderdzis.

"I have given orders for urgent measures to be taken to find the killers," he said in a statement.

Yeltsin is not obliged to obey the Duma, but refusal to sack Yerin could hinder his attempts to forge co-operation with the legislature.

Yerin was quoted by Rar-Tass news agency as saying he would resign if it were in Russia's interest.

First Deputy Premier Sergei Shakhrai described the situation in Moscow following Tuesday night's killing of Ayazderdzis, a 35-year-old banker, as "extremely dangerous."

"The government is in a practically impossible situation. If it introduces emergency measures, there are people who will say it is settling scores with the opposition."

"If it does nothing it will be accused of being weak," Ayazderdzis, a member of the New Regional Policy (NRP) group, was quoted as saying in the chair of his home at Khimki, a suburb of Moscow.

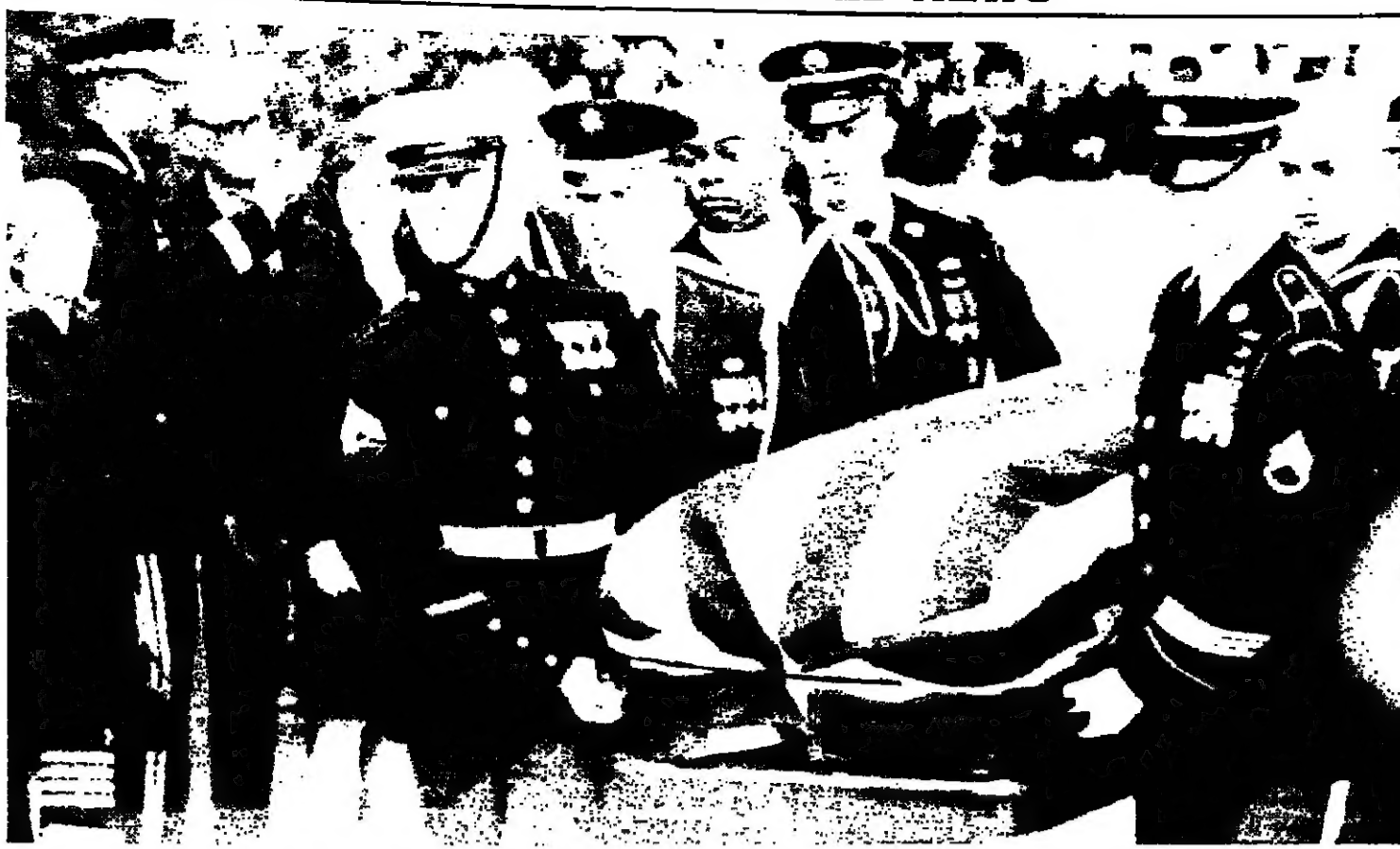
His killer hid in the basement of his nine-story apartment block, waiting for him to return from a parliamentary debate.

The assassin fired one blast from a pump-action shotgun into the deputy's chest at close range through a ventilation window before abandoning his gun and fleeing.

"It is clear that this was a contract killing and, in our view, it was a political killing," NRP member Vladimir Medvedev told parliament.

Ayazderdzis resigned as head of the private MDK bank when elected a deputy at polls in December. As a high-profile banker, he would have been in danger from mafia-style groupings who have killed a string of businessmen in the last year.

But Ayazderdzis may have also won enemies by publishing in his journal *Kto Yest' Kto* (Who's Who) a list of 266 people he identified as mafia bosses and citing their crimes.



Tricia and Julie, the daughters of Richard Nixon, and the Rev. Billy Graham, left, watch as the casket bearing the former president is carried into the Presidential Library at Yorba Linda, Calif. (Reuters)

Thousands pay last respects to Nixon

YORBA LINDA, Calif. (AP) - Presidents and other dignitaries gathered for Richard Nixon's funeral yesterday, after ordinary people stood for up to eight hours through a cold night and damp dawn to say goodbye.

President Clinton and all four former US presidents plan to attend the ceremonies, as well as George McGovern, the man Nixon beat in the 1972 landslide presidential election, and Spiro Agnew, Nixon's vice president who was forced to resign.

The line of mourners was five kilometers long at its peak to file past the flag-draped mahogany casket of the 37th president, borne home with fanfare Tuesday to the place of his austere childhood.

"You're standing out there for hours in the cold. You don't know what to expect. But those five minutes made the whole thing worth it. It was worth every minute," said a tearful Barbara Casey, 46, of Westminster, Calif.

Nixon's body was carried home aboard the same blue-and-white jet that brought him back to California after he resigned in disgrace 20 years ago. He died Friday in New York at age 81 after a stroke.

Yesterday's funeral ceremony was for the powerful, with US political dignitaries and delegations from at least 55 countries expected. President Clinton, who as a student protested Nixon's Vietnam War policies, was to deliver a eulogy.

Previewing Clinton's remarks at the funeral, his Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers yesterday said Clinton "believes that Nixon's life ought to be judged in its totality and not by any particular event, that he was involved in public service for nearly 50 years and that he had many accomplishments, some setbacks during those years, but that history will remember him for his life more broadly."

Dignitaries gather for funeral at birthplace

An estimated 27,000 people had filed past the closed casket at the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace by early yesterday, waiting for hours as temperatures fell below 50 degrees Fahrenheit (10 C). The funeral was scheduled for 4 p.m. yesterday afternoon.

Six hours before the viewing ended, officials were discouraging people from getting on the line's end because they wouldn't make it through before the 11 a.m. closing time. But the crowd showed no signs of letting up.

Bruce Mahaffey and his wife, Irene, said police had repeatedly told them they should go home. They weren't budging from their spot as the last two in line.

"I'm just determined to see if I can get in and I can only hope," Irene Mahaffey said. "I would have been here even if the wait had been all night," said Dennis Elmore, 41, of San Jacinto, Calif., emerging from the library early yesterday morning. "I turned and saw the coffin, and there he was. His soul is there. You can feel the aura."

In the library's lobby, mourners were greeted by a photograph of a grinning Nixon giving a thumbs-up gesture. Wreaths from China, Poland and Russia adorned the coffin, which stood on a pedestal under the gaze of a military honor guard.

Visitors during the day Tuesday waited through intermittent rain and hail. Some wore Nixon campaign buttons. Some wept quietly. One woman crossed herself.

"This is probably the most emotional experience I've been through, including my marriage and the birth of my children," said Debby Shepard, 43. "My stomach is still moving inside."

First in line for the viewing was Bill Anderson, 47, who left home at 6 a.m. to pay his respects and to see his 21-year-old son, Albert, a member of the honor guard.

"For any man to give his whole life for this country, I would have to have a strong feeling for him," Anderson said.

Buddhist monks and an American Indian chief joined those in line. Japanese, German and Spanish could be heard in the crowd.

Nixon is to be buried next to his wife, Pat, a few steps from the tiny clapboard farmhouse built by Nixon's father. Nixon was born there and lived in the house until he was 9.

The library is on the land where Nixon's father tried and failed to coax lemon trees to bear fruit. He eventually moved the family to Whitier and opened a service station, then a general store.

Serbs withdraw heavy weapons in terms of NATO ultimatum

Wounded evacuated from Gorazde; aid trucks reach city

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Bosnian Serbs yesterday complied with a NATO ultimatum to withdraw their heavy weapons from an exclusion zone around Gorazde, clearing the way for a new multinational initiative to end Bosnia's two-year war.

United Nations officials in Sarajevo said Bosnian Serb forces had removed their big guns from the 20-kilometer exclusion zone, except for a couple of broken-down tanks and a damaged artillery piece.

"They agreed completely to the terms of the ultimatum and did not manifest any reluctance to withdraw," said UN military spokesman commander Eric Chaparon.

UN military observers continued to monitor the 20-kilometer zone and NATO jets carried out aerial reconnaissance of the area around the Moslem town in eastern Bosnia.

The NATO deadline expired at 2:01 a.m. and UN special envoy Yasushi Akashi announced immediately he would not order air strikes.

"I have decided it is not necessary for me at this stage to request NATO to use air power," Akashi said.

Serb forces, under the threat of allied bombing raids, complied with a first NATO ultimatum on Sunday, ending a three-week assault on Gorazde, one of six Moslem UN "safe areas" in Bosnia.

In Brussels, a NATO spokesman warned the Serbs that the ultimatum remained in force and that the alliance would continue to monitor the situation "with the utmost vigilance."

NATO, which has also threatened air strikes if other "safe areas" are attacked, said it was watching to see if weapons withdrawn from Gorazde were used to besiege other Moslem areas.

"This is not the end of the story," the chairman of NATO's military committee, Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, said.

"There is always the risk that they will be employed elsewhere. We do need to keep a track on this... and will do so," Vincent told a news conference.

The lifting of the Gorazde siege allowed the UN to evacuate

around 300 wounded people from the shattered town and deliver food and other humanitarian assistance.

Aid trucks reached Gorazde earlier yesterday with emergency sanitation equipment to be used in restoring water supplies destroyed by withdrawing Serbs.

"The water situation in Gorazde is desperate. The [65,000] population has no access to an adequate supply of potable water and the threat of an outbreak of epidemics is growing daily," the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

An ICRC sanitation engineer with the convoy would begin work on an emergency water program immediately.

Charles cracks bitter joke against Diana

LONDON (Reuters) - Prince Charles on Tuesday cracked a bitter joke against his estranged wife, Diana.

On a visit to a London inner-city project, Charles was told by a well-wisher she had met his wife.

Pausing briefly, a smiling Charles said, "You lived to tell the tale, did you?"

Charles moved on, making no further comment, and the well-wishers did not press him any further.

But the remark, carried on national television news programs, seemed likely to stir up new controversy for the heir to the British throne who is seeking to repair his image after the collapse of his marriage to the princess.

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No longer a dream

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Russia would have been a significant milestone, even if it were purely ceremonial. It served as a closing of the circle in the relations between the two countries, the ultimate act of normalization and conciliation between Israel and a giant power, which under a previous regime was its most dangerous nemesis.

But the visit contained more than gestures of goodwill. Rabin bolstered the morale of the Jewish community, signed a trade pact with his hosts, received promises that Moscow would not initiate new arms deals with Syria nor help Iran become a nuclear power, and heard pledges from President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Russia's commitment to combating antisemitism and Islamic fundamentalism.

There is little doubt that business relations between the two countries can blossom. Collaboration on numerous projects is a natural result of mutual interests and capabilities. Israel has a particular advantage in that half a million recent immigrants from the CIS, including an inordinately large number of academics, live here today. Knowing the language and mores of their country of origin, they can serve as a perfect liaison.

Russian leaders talk not only about business, but military deals. This was wisely fessed by Rabin. Israel is "married" to the US in matters of security and military cooperation and though Moscow and Washington are on friendly terms, close Israeli-Russian cooperation would be tantamount to bigamy, as commentator Moshe Zak once put it.

For now, Israel should be satisfied with an

opportunity to conduct a dialogue with the Russian military. The misinformation and disinformation about Israel the Soviet Army was fed, which the Russian military establishment has inherited, will not easily be dispelled. That Rabin was afforded an opportunity to speak about the region with a few hundred senior military officers at the Russian Military Academy was therefore particularly welcome.

Not that Israel can afford to become euphoric about the relationship. Russia's new activism in the region is a reminder that even democratic countries can have conflicting interests. Russia competed with Western powers for influence in the Middle East before the advent of Communism, and there is no reason to suppose that post-Communist Russia will be any different.

Perhaps more important is that Russia, still in dire economic straits, needs to sell whatever it can produce, including arms, to the highest bidder. Nothing will prove that it deserves to be a leader in world affairs more than if it limits arms sales to Syria and other dictatorial confrontational states.

The most important lesson Israel should learn from this historic visit is that real change in belligerent nations' attitudes can only come with a conversion to democratic norms. There was never a ghost of a chance that the Soviet Union would establish this kind of relations with Israel. Nor is it possible that if Russia reverts to dictatorial rule friendly, normal relations will be maintained.

By the same token, to expect that true normalization can be established between Israel and dictatorial Arab regimes is to dream an impossible, dangerous dream.

Bauhaus and bah-humbug

MANY Tel Avivians who are scornful of their city's shambolic architecture will have to rethink their attitude next month, when a throng of international architects arrives to examine its unique heritage. Those who would never utter "city planning" and "Tel Aviv" in the same breath may be surprised to learn that, for many of its early years, much of the new town was designed to a specific architectural philosophy.

The waves of European immigrants who arrived as the Nazis seized power in the 1930s brought with them architecture imbued with the Bauhaus International Style of modernist architecture, which the culturally illiterate Nazis promptly banned in Germany. For the immigrants, the modernist style represented their still-European identity - which nonetheless had to be adapted, rather than copied, to a Mediterranean climate and life-style. Few knew it also had a Jewish identity until the architect Julius Posener, who arrived in 1935 wrote: "In Germany, this architecture - the flat roofs, window strips, protruding concrete plates, corner windows, long stairwells and dynamic roof endings - was called 'an architecture of tabernacles' which originated in our Oriental blood."

The UNESCO "Bauhaus in Tel Aviv" conference, announced in Paris yesterday, is timely on two main counts. It is a reminder that already this young state has a heritage of world status worth preserving - by this of course is meant a 20th century heritage, to be added to the centuries of other treasures that are well known and loved. Secondly, it is a

long overdue chance for UNESCO to repair, and make some apology for, its two decades of virulent antisemitic, anti-Israeli campaigns. These have been all the more shocking, because they have come from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The smears and insults heaped on this Jewish state have been the antithesis of what every single word in the organization's name should stand for.

The director of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, said yesterday that Tel Aviv is an ideal place for experts to study the International Style. The leading architects from a dozen countries will also tour the country to examine Bauhaus influence in Jerusalem, Haifa, and on kibbutzim. UNESCO's new-found interest in the cultural heritage of modern Israel is yet another welcome adjustment to long-skewed international attitudes to this country.

It will compensate in some small way for UNESCO's outrageous libel in 1992 when it proclaimed that Jerusalem's historic sites were being destroyed by "the interference, destruction, and transformation" wrought by the "Israeli occupation." The statement drew the formidable and righteous wrath of Teddy Kollek on the organization's interfering, destructive, and propaganda-transformed experts. UNESCO yesterday made the inevitable reference to the peace process, as if it alone justifies changing attitudes. One hopes the day is near when Israel's remarkable heritage and achievements in education, science, and culture will need no "peace process" excuse to attract the attention of UNESCO.



The lesser of two evils

YIGAL CARMON

TO get Yasser Arafat to sign an agreement next week, Yitzhak Rabin is being pressed to make 11 additional concessions on issues on which he has said there could be no compromise.

Example: A concession on a unified customs package for Israel and the autonomy, one which the finance minister himself says could severely harm Israel's economy.

Example: A concession on jurisdiction over Israelis, which could endanger every Israeli who happens to visit the autonomy areas, for whatever reason.

Example: Concessions regarding sea and air space and the release of Hamas prisoners threaten our security.

The easiest concessions seem to be those that deal with political issues such as passport, currency, stamps, and so on. But once we agree that the PLO has a right to issue passports, our ability to check the identities of those entering the territories will be impaired. Even Yossi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni have been unequivocal on this in the past.

How will Rabin act? Both left and right believe he will make concessions on all 11 issues because, both personally and politically, he has crossed the point of no return.

Rabin himself has made a contradictory statement on this: "We have passed the point of no return - that is, 100 kilometers out of 1,000."

It is possible that under these difficult circumstances Rabin might have preferred a unilateral withdrawal. And indeed, looking at the negotiations and the situation on the ground, it seems the prime minister wants nothing more than to leave Gaza immediately.

But he understands (and security sources tell him) that a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza would cause chaos and violence. The victims would be the residents of the Israeli communities around the Gaza Strip, which already today have earned the status of "confrontation line" settlements.

Rabin therefore understands that it is preferable for the IDF to remain in the Strip, despite the difficulties, rather than having to return there immediately and pay in blood in order to be able to defend the communities of the Western Negev.

Rabin is in a tragic situation, a trap: He cannot stay in Gaza, but neither can he leave; he cannot concede, but also cannot attain a concession from the PLO. He cannot reach agreement, but also cannot take unilateral action.

The prime minister is under a great deal of political pressure

(and temptation) to sign no matter what, as long as ink is put to paper and the withdrawal begins - even at the expense of not achieving agreement on vital issues.

Israel will always be able to impose its will, we are told, on every issue on which agreement has not been reached. According to the

Will Rabin have the strength - and courage - to choose?

media, the finance minister himself is toying with this idea because of the dead end the economic negotiations have reached.

This is a double-edged sword. Imposing our terms will give the PLO international justification to act as it pleases, to try and impose its own positions and violate its commitments. This is a sure prescription for the immediate destruction of the whole agreement.

In the past, it would have been inconceivable for Rabin to act so irresponsibly. He clearly declared that lack of agreement on the economic issue, which is an extremely important one, would delay the whole agreement.

WHY THE rush to sign an agreement - or even a partial one - at any price? Only to embark at last on what Rabin himself has defined as no more than an "experiment," the success of which he deems uncertain.

Moreover, the prime minister has admitted that, in effect, he was wrong in his estimation of Arafat's ability to deliver (the deputy chief of staff and others agree with him on this assessment of Arafat).

The "experiment" has two aspects. The first is actual management of the self-rule, which affects the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

The coordinator of the territories isn't the only one who is "worried" because there are no signs that the PLO is really ready to assume self-rule. The deputy president of the World Bank "doesn't sleep nights," realizing that the PLO is simply incapable of living up to the task. And who will pay the price of Palestinian economic failure and frustration? We will.

The second aspect is security, namely the PLO's approach to violence against us by Hamas, Islamic Jihad, George Habash,

Nayef Hawatmeh, the Palestine Liberation Front of Abu Abbas and sections of Fatah itself as well.

Our experience with Arafat since September 1993 speaks for itself. Comparisons with the eve of the withdrawal from Sinai are simply not valid. Arafat isn't doing what Sadat did. On the contrary.

The leaders of the PLO and Hamas are expressing themselves in similar language: The intifada will continue as long as the occupation does. But even according to Rabin and Meretz, the IDF will continue to stay at least in part of the territories for a long time.

The choice, then, is not between the PLO and Hamas. Far from it. With an agreement being woven openly between the two organizations, opting for the PLO means choosing Hamas as well. That is why both Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres have warned that Israel will not agree to this kind of cooperation under any circumstances.

But the PLO have rejected their statements as interference in internal Palestinian affairs. In such a situation, there is no foundation for the hope that the PLO will fight Hamas for the sake of our security needs. Introducing an additional 7,000 armed PLO police (on top of the 2,000 recruited locally) into the territories is tantamount to trying to douse a fire with petrol.

Some of Rabin's advisers are suggesting he skip the interim arrangement altogether and forget the testing period, which he (rightly) saw as an absolute security necessity. If he follows this advice, Rabin will be like someone sending passengers up on a test flight of a new plane. Except that in this case, the "passengers" would be hundreds of thousands of Jews and Palestinians.

One doesn't have to belong to Rabin's political camp to appreciate his dilemma. His political rivals can also understand the spiritual resources and political courage the prime minister needs in the current, terrible situation to recognize reality and stop at the edge of the abyss (a move whose political price is clear).

If only it could spare Israel further sacrifices and crisis, but alas at this stage, there is no ideal alternative solution anymore. The choice now doesn't lie between a good solution and a bad one, but between a serious crisis (if the process is halted) and disaster (if it isn't).

Will the prime minister have the strength - and the courage - to choose the lesser of the two evils?

The writer is a former adviser to the prime minister on counter-terrorism.

Burden of proof

RICHARD HARWOOD

BILL Safire, a much respected (and often feared) New York Times pundit, has written 20 or so columns since early 1992 on what he believes to be one of the greatest scandals in the history of man. From a column published on November 12, 1992:

"Iraqgate is the first global political scandal. The leaders of three major nations [US, Italy and Britain] are implicated in a criminal conspiracy..."

"Iraqgate," said US News & World Report, is a story of "how the Bush administration helped finance Saddam Hussein's war machine with American tax dollars." Safire claimed that "tax money" was "used to finance [Hussein's] secret nuclear buildup."

When the Clinton administration came to power last year, it produced no evidence of any global scandal, whereupon Safire on September 9 suggested that President Clinton had become part of the "conspiracy."

Under the headline "Is the Fix In?" Safire wrote, "George Bush privately assured Bill Clinton that he would not criticize the new president during the first year of his term..." Mr. Bush has kept his word.

The truth about 'Iraqgate'

THIS IS a tale that may prove to be no less fictional than Oliver Stone's absurd movie JFK. That is my reading of Kenneth Juster's persuasive rebuttal to the scandal and conspiracy claims of Safire and other journalists.

He is a young Washington lawyer who served for a time as senior adviser to Lawrence Eagleburger who was then the deputy secretary of state in the Bush administration.

Juster left the government in 1989 and became a visiting fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, where he studied this whole affair. His findings - "The Myth of Iraqgate" - appear in the Spring issue of Foreign Policy magazine.

"The central tenet of the Iraqgate story, as charged by the press," he writes, "is that the Bush administration pursued a secret policy in cooperation with Iraq to divert US agricultural assistance programs in order to help... Saddam Hussein obtain weapons."

US News told its readers in October 1992 that through these programs "George Bush continued to provide billions of dollars in loans to Saddam Hussein after the war with Iran ended in 1988."

It's a nifty theory, but there is one little problem, as Juster explains. No government loans were made to Iraq in the 1980s or '90s.

Credits to buy food were guaranteed by the US through the Commodity Credit Corp. But a "credit" is not a transaction in which a lender hands over money to a borrower.

Under the CCC food program, an exporter agrees with a foreign buyer to export specific quantities of American commodities. The US bank financing this sale pays the American exporter for the food.

It is repaid by the country receiving the credit. Iraq, for example. The American bank involved is insured against loss by the CCC. Thus, it is not even theoretically possible, Juster argues, for any money to have been "stolen" from these credits for weapons purposes by Iraq.

Maybe so, critics have said, but by obtaining credit for food purchases, Iraq was able to use its hard currency to buy other things, weapons included.

That could have happened, theoretically, when the first credits were extended in the early 1980s. But when payments came due under the three-year payback period required for CCC-guaranteed credits, Iraq had to pay up in hard currency or be disqualified from further food purchases.

The long-term effect was to substantially deplete Iraq's hard-currency reserves. It obtained \$392 million in new food credits in fiscal 1990 while paying off old credits with \$847 million in hard currency the same year.

In August 1990 the US imposed sanctions on Iraq for invading Kuwait. Payments by Iraq on \$1.9 billion in outstanding food credits stopped at that point. That is what the Iraq food program has cost American taxpayers, according to Safire and others.

But hold on. All is not lost yet. The Federal Reserve System has frozen all Iraqi assets in the US. They total \$1.3 billion.

Furthermore, according to Juster, "Iraq presumably would have to settle claims for all of its CCC-related debts as part of any subsequent normalization of relations with the US." So, in the end, the slate may be wiped clean.

The reputations of those accused of Iraqgate conspiracies and criminality may take longer to repair.

The writer is former ombudsman of The Washington Post. (The Washington Post)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JEWISH LIVES ARE CHEAP

Sir, - The murder of Israelis at the hands of Arabs in northern Israel confirms the partiality and anti-Jewish bias by self-proclaimed "fair-minded" people. Should an Arab fall victim to reprisal or other action by Jews, those individuals fall over themselves to blame Jews and the State of Israel.

For weeks, the newspapers have had a field day shedding tears on the front page for the innocent victims of alleged Jewish terrorism.

On April 7, the local newspaper managed to find room on page 3 for the brutal attack on a bus in northern Israel where eight Israelis were killed by an Arab. The fact that Jews were killed by an Arab terrorist did not rate the front page. When the attack in Hebron occurred, Jews all over the world, including me, expressed shock and outrage and condemned the killing. Prime Minister Rabin and his foreign minister were in tears over the incident. Heads of states sent condolences to the families of the not-so-innocent victims. Where are those same people now? Where are the outraged Arabs? Where is their clergy? Where is anyone when Jews are being killed?

Hey out there! Is anyone still listening?
JOSEPH CEDER
Far Rockaway, N.Y.

NO PREJUDICES

Sir, - Rabbi David Forman ("Commission and omission," April 17) is wrong on all points.

Firstly, the Shmagar Commission is fulfilling a wonderful function. We, a democratic country, deserve the right to examine ourselves and appraise our actions. It takes a judicial commission of the highest caliber to perform this noble task. I do not trust the judgment of someone sitting home who thinks he "knows it all" to do it. This includes Rabbi Forman with his beers.

Secondly, there is a very good and justified reason for the "double standard." The Arabs are at war with us. They have been at war with us for a very long time. Continued Arab attacks impose upon us the right and the duty to presume that Arabs will attack us and that Jews will defend themselves. We have a duty to compensate our citizens but none to compensate Arab aggressors or victims.

It is justified that Rabbi Levinger was judged more leniently than Arab stonethrowers. The

reason is that Rabbi Levinger was attacked before he fired. The Arab stonethrowers are the aggressors with no justification.

Jewish non-Zionist religious parties do not advocate the overthrow of the "State of Israel" by force or otherwise. The Arab parties advocate the overthrow of the state by those means. We in a democracy can tolerate each other's opinions but not those of the Arabs who would destroy us.

There are and should be different rules for opening fire against Jews and Arabs. These rules are dictated by the battlefield conditions which the Arabs have forced upon us.

Only Rabbi Forman can think that we are "prejudiced" against Arabs. The Arabs attacked us long before the Zionist enterprise and continue those attacks into this very day in disregard of our peace efforts.

These are hard facts, not "prejudices."

ALEX K. GROSS
Jerusalem.

MORTON DOLINSKY

Sir, - The eulogy of Morton Dolinsky (April 18) fails to mention that Mr. Dolinsky was one of the three founders of the Jewish Defense League in 1967, in New York City. Along with the late Rabbi Meir Kahane and Bert Zweibon, he started the campaign

to free Soviet Jewry. Mr. Dolinsky did live to see the fruits of his labor in the immigration of thousands of Russian Jews to Israel.

CHAIM BEN-ELIEZER
Jerusalem.

POSTSCRIPTS

NEARLY ONE IN five VCR owners has failed one of the basic tests of the new information age - setting a digital clock, according to a survey.

While 88 percent of Americans say their family owns a videocassette recorder, the number "12:00" is blinking endlessly on and off on 16 percent of those machines, according to the poll.

On the other hand, 72 percent maintained they had managed, at least once, to set a VCR to record a program at a later time.

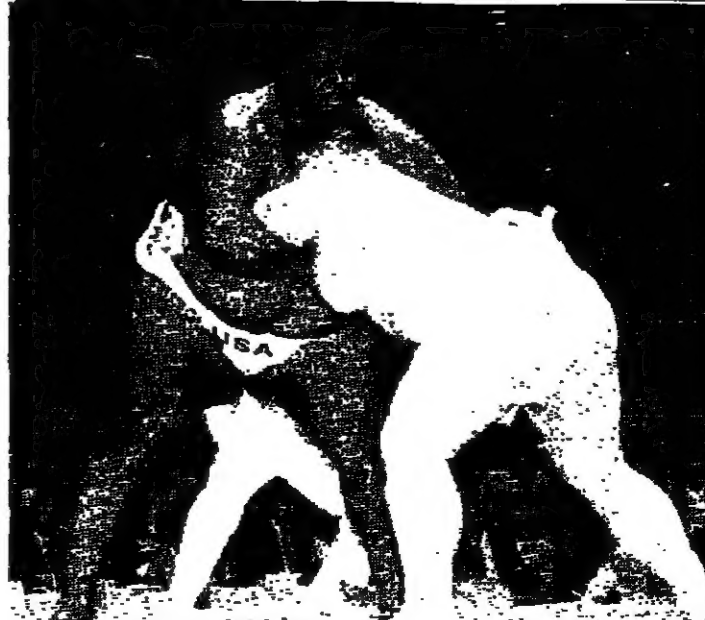
THERE MIGHT have been more robbers than shoppers at an all-night convenience store in Victoria, British Columbia.

Beleaguered clerk Mark Ziegler was robbed four times while working at the 7-Eleven store. He said he believes the crime spree was caused by addicts looking for money to buy drugs.

The same man was believed responsible for the second and third robberies.

A small amount of cash was taken in each robbery.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Emanuel Yarbrough (the one with 'USA' below his belly button) is not a gymnast. He has no future as a jockey or as the projectile in the majestic sport of dwarf-tossing. Yarbrough, from Rahway, N.J., is 2.9 meters (6-foot, 10-inches) tall and weighs in at 235 kg (517 pounds). Nestled in his bosom is fellow sumo wrestler Yasuo Yano of Japan, and behind them is a more normally proportioned person.

(AP)

I'm scared to let him see me nude

DEAR RUTHIE

RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
After 40 years of marriage, my husband divorced me to marry another woman. I spent the next five years in despair.

But then I met a man of my own age who talked me out of my depression with patience and kindness. He boosted my confidence through his interest in me both as a person and as a woman.

My problem is that I am terrified to go to bed with him. At my age, my body seems so unattractive and shriveled that I cannot imagine letting any man see it. For this reason, I am afraid even to think of remarriage, though I know other people my age do it. How can I get over this fear?

Exposure Phobic
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Phobic,
If this man were the type to be put off by what you describe as a "shriveled" body, he would be courting somebody younger. Your feeling so unattractive probably has to do with your husband's choice of another woman over you, and not with the number of wrinkles you have.

If you are uncomfortable sharing this problem with your friend, you should seek counseling. It would be a terrible shame to forfeit the love and companionship of someone to whom you are willing to expose your soul — all because of a fear of exposing your body.

Dear Ruthie,
Some friends of mine have a teenage son who was diagnosed as schizophrenic last year. They also have two younger children, who haven't been told about their brother's illness in order, I suppose, to spare them.

But the opposite is happening. These children are suffering all the more for their ignorance. They see their brother behaving in strange, sometimes violent, ways and hear the gossip.

Is there a way I can get my friends to be straight with their children?

Concerned Family Friend
Somewhere in Israel

Eat right and see God

BOOKS

STEVE SILK

MILROY THE MAGICIAN, by Paul Theroux (Random House, \$24, 417 pp.).

AFTER nearly 30 books devoted to everything from literary criticism and essays to novels, travelogues and sci-fi, Paul Theroux has shown he can pull all kinds of literary rabbits out of his hat.

His latest trick is a comic burst of magic realism, a darkly satirical novel that skewers America's obsession with longevity, eating right and watching TV.

So it's an easy target — but that doesn't mean the story can't be fun.

When we first meet him, Milroy is a two-bit traveling prestidigitator performing in a Cape Cod carnival. He faithfully adheres to the biblical injunction to treat his body as a temple. Nothing goes into it except foods that have been sacrificed by mention in the good book.

Well, there are a few exceptions: a meter-long sword, for example. "This is one way of getting into your system," Milroy yells to the crowd before swallowing the blade.

For Milroy, eating is holy, and regularity divine. "Eat right and get regular and you will see the face of God," he says.

Milroy sees God (whom he calls Good), but fears the rest of America does not. "There's got to be something seriously wrong in a country where the poor people are fat and the rich people are skinny," he says.

So the flashy magician is on a self-imposed mission to save his beloved country from the threat of hot dogs, cheeseburgers and French fries. Only he doesn't know it yet.

Struggling to survive the daily grind, Milroy transfixes a thumb-sucking teen during a performance. Jilly Farina, a kid with a serious self-image problem, soon abandons her drunken skunk of a dad and an abusive grandmother for life on the road with the magic man.

THE PLUCKY gal, who masquerades as a young boy named Alex to allay any suspicions of hanky-panky (there is none), narrates this story. And it is her awestruck account of Milroy's evolution from magician to messiah, from performer of parlor tricks to maker of miracles, that propels this tale to its enchanting finale.

Jilly's innocent trust and limitless faith inspire Milroy to greater deeds. They ditch the carnival. Milroy buys Jilly a TV, only to succumb to a fascination for

Dear Concerned,
The best way to approach them is privately and directly. But keep in mind that your friends may see it as overstepping the boundaries of your friendship.

If so, you may meet with cold resistance, or a swift kick out their door.

You cannot possibly imagine what they are going through emotionally, or know what made them keep their son's illness a secret from their other children.

If genuine concern for the family is your motive, you should make this very clear. Offer your opinion only about the wisdom of keeping the other children in the dark about a problem they seem to know exists, without being able to name it.

Dear Ruthie,
I have been out of the work force for a good 20 years. I used to be an excellent typist, but almost never type any more, so I'm out of practice.

A friend recommended me for a secretarial job in a busy office, stating my previous skills. The problem is that I don't really have those skills any more.

Should I hide this fact from my future employer and hope to get back into the swing of things quickly? I'm afraid that if I tell the truth, my chances of getting hired will go way down.

Keyboard Keyed-Up
Jerusalem

Dear Keyed-Up,
If you tell the truth, your chances of getting hired are likely to go up. Skills gone rusty are easily refurbished. And honesty about limitations is rare.

If you lie, your employer's expectations will make your initiation into the job a very uneasy one. Not to mention irritating and disappointing for the boss. In the meantime, you can start hitting the keyboard at home for practice.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)



The Hacienda Gripinas, one of the nicest 'paradores,' is tucked into the mountainside at Jayuya. (Shana Sureck-Mei, Hartford Courant)

Country inns of Puerto Rico

TRAVEL

STEVE SILK

THE Parador Hacienda Gripinas is among the brightest stars in a constellation of 16 rural hotels, called "paradores," which are scattered throughout Puerto Rico.

The "paradores puertorriquenos," invariably referred to as country inns in guidebooks and tourist publications, are a chain of sorts, albeit one composed of different links.

Perhaps something has been lost in the translation, but calling a Puerto Rican parador a country inn is rather like calling a kayak the Queen Mary. It conjures a certain set of expectations, in this case one likely to be dashed on the hard rocks of reality.

New Englanders acquainted with inns in Vermont or New Hampshire will be surprised — and not necessarily favorably — by the tropical hostilities of the Puerto Rican countryside. What the tourist literature says — "A stay at any of them is an unforgettable experience" — may be true, but the stay might be memorable for the wrong reasons.

On the positive side, nearly all of the paradores are near something worth seeing — a great beach,

a mineral spring, a pre-Columbian Indian site.

And nearly all the paradores are inexpensive — most rooms are well under \$100 a night for a double. Just because a parador is cheap, doesn't mean it's a good value. Some cost \$60 but are not worth \$60 a night.

Still, the paradores represent probably the best value for those intent on exploring the island beyond the rain forests of El Yunque, the historic precincts of Old San Juan and the sprawling, crime-ridden metropolis of modern San Juan.

THE TYPICAL parador, such as the Parador la Familia in Fajardo or the Parador Vistamar in Quebradillas, is a bare-bones, motel-style retreat — a collection of sterile concrete boxes perched in scenic surroundings.

The Vistamar, an American-style motel overlooking a dramatic panorama of rugged headland and wild beach, is in a particularly

scenic spot, even if its rooms suffer from cookie-cutter sameness.

(If you drive to that beach, don't leave anything of even nominal value in your car. Thieves abound.)

Others, such as the immensely popular Parador Martorell in the slightly seedy beach town of Luquillo, are more like state penitentiaries than country inns. Floor-to-ceiling steel bars seal the open-air porch of the small Luquillo hostelry from the surrounding blocks of condos.

Guests come and go through a locked door. More steel bars cover the reception area, and still more form grids over the windows. The television sets in the rooms are imprisoned in tiny steel cages bolted to the walls.

Then there are the other paradores — the kind that are a bargain. Most of these idyllic low-cost hideaways are situated along the island's mountainous spine. The Parador Hacienda Gripinas in Jayuya and the Parador Hacienda

Juanita are charming places to spend a day or two.

The Parador Banos de Coamo, with its restorative hot springs and lazy atmosphere, also offers a peaceful retreat — as long as you avoid weekends or holidays. (Some believe the lukewarm mineral waters of the hot springs were the source of the legend of the fountain of youth.)

The best paradores are those in the mountains, which is a particular boon to visitors. One of the most spectacular pursuits in all of Puerto Rico is traveling the 264-km. island network of mountain roads called the Panoramic Route.

Like old stagecoach stops, the back-country paradores, along the way offer an ideal opportunity for a break in the journey. The drive is best done in several days. The Panoramic Route consists of 40 roads and is often poorly signposted, so count on getting lost.

As a reward for braving the vagaries of this mountain ramble, there's nothing like a stop at Hacienda Gripinas or another of the mountain "paradores." The frogs will be waiting. (The Hartford Courant)

Plantation-turned-hotel nestles in the hills

Petroglyphs left by the Indians can be found near town; one famous, flowerlike image depicts the sun emitting rays of light. In town, you can stroll up the 114 stairs from the central plaza to view the rusty-looking bones of a long-dead Indian at the Tomb of the Borinquen Indian.

Jayuya is also known for its many artisans — woodcarvers, musical-instrument makers and sinteros (creators of the painted wooden saints that are popular collector's items). Visitors can arrange a visit to their studios.


The Parador Hacienda Gripinas, situated on a country road several kilometers from the center of Jayuya, traces its history in the green hills of Puerto Rico back more than 140 years. It was once a model for the island's agriculture industry. As the region's economic backbone, the plantation was such a powerful institution that it minted its own coinage.

Today, the gleaming white inn recalls those glory days with its airy common rooms, patrician veranda (a spot so peaceful that birds nest in the potted plants) and

worthy restaurant. The coffee raised on this farm was deemed among the world's best in 1904, but the hacienda fell on hard times shortly thereafter.

For a time, the government took over the plantation, distributed its land holdings among the local farmers and used the hacienda as a retreat; it became an inn about 20 years ago.

Today, the place is especially popular among locals for weddings, birthdays and other festive events. S.S. (The Hartford Courant)



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Math in the bath with numbers puzzles

OFF THE SHELF

MARTHA MEISELS

IN the classic family memoir *Cheaper by the Dozen*, the efficiency-expert father posted multiplication tables on the bathroom wall so his brood wouldn't waste time while sitting on the toilet.

Now a local manufacturer is suggesting that our preschoolers learn their numbers while playing in the bath.

Paide, the learning-aids division of the Pal-Kar plastics firm of Kfar Ruppin, is selling a numbers puzzle made of firm plastic sponge. When wet, it adheres to bathroom tiles.

The child is supposed to match up each numeral with a corresponding piece containing the right number of holes, then place colored plastic rods in the holes.

The educational bath toy is recommended for children from age three.

Once they recognize the numbers from 1 to 10, they are meant to proceed to simple addition and subtraction exercises, according to the toy's instructions.

For the time being, the 55-piece Puzzle Mispairim ("numbers puzzle") is available by phone order only, 06-589361, and costs NIS 49.

THE MARKETPLACE is awash with plastic devices to support a baby or toddler in the bathtub in order to free parents' hands for the task of washing.

The Swivel Bath Seat, for babies of six months and up, is the latest arrival in the Safety 1st line of children's products from the US, imported by Chemipal.

The company claims the seat, which locks the child in place and rotates a full circle, makes bath time "a safe, comfortable, convenient experience." For the baby's amusement, there are three colored rings attached to the front tray.

The product costs NIS 70 at baby-goods shops and pharmacies which stock Safety 1st products. The company's line is aimed at coping with virtually every child-safety situation.

Among the products are safety locks for cabinets and ovens, little cushions for the sharp corners of tables and shelves, and several car-safety accessories.

Fisher-Price offers a simpler looking Bath Ring, which retails here for a somewhat higher price, NIS 89. The baby is enclosed in a two-color plastic ring with a back support. Imported by Clai Toys, it is sold mainly at baby-goods outlets.

A French-made bath support with the trade name Daphne is designed for infants from birth to eight months.

The local importers say it was designed at a French hospital. The plastic baby-holder supports the infant at a 45-degree angle, on either back or stomach. Though

primarily for the bath, the device can double as a recliner seat on land. It sells for NIS 59 at pharmacies and baby-goods shops.

The importer, Idea of Rishon LeZion, says the Daphne seat has the approval of France's strict Standards Institute and is exported to the US market.

Try as I might, I could not locate any department at the Israel Standards Institute which has authority for checking the safety of children's bath seats. In any event, parents should never leave a baby or small child unattended in the bath, with or without a so-called safety seat.

YOU CAN be your own interior decorator for children's rooms with easily applied stickers from the UK, featuring bright-colored storybook and cartoon characters.

Two slightly different types, called Stikarounds and Slapstiks, come with instructions in Hebrew, English, French and German. A NIS 57 box of either variety should be more than adequate to decorate a standard-size room for children.

The Stikarounds are available in five themes: Disney Babies, Teddy Bears' Bedtime, Paddington's Day, Forever Friends, and Clowns & Numbers.

Made of paper, which can be cleaned, it has an adhesive back and sticks easily onto virtually any surface, including painted and papered walls, furniture, doors and glass.

It also peels off readily and can be moved elsewhere. A box of 23-cm.-high stickers, spaced 40 cm. apart, will create a running strip 7 m. in length.

The even larger Slapstiks are more permanent once applied and cannot be reused after removal. Images include Winnie the Pooh and Peter Rabbit. These bigger stickers are recommended for ceilings as well as for most types of wall surfaces, as specified on the boxes.

The importer, M.C.I. of Tel Aviv, has dubbed the stickers "Madbekef" in Hebrew. They are available at baby-goods and do-it-yourself chains, and at some gift shops.

KOFIKO THE monkey is staging a strong comeback.

The Simian stamp - from a veteran local children's book series - is the star of a new board game from Kod-Kod, called Mishtagim Al Kofiko ("going crazy over Kofiko"). Meant for two to four players, aged five and up, it sells for the reasonable price of NIS 54. It is refreshing to find a just-for-fun game without any educational pretenses.

The Tempo beverage manufacturer has secured rights to use the Kofiko name and picture on its new series of noncarbonated soft drinks, which come in individual aluminum-foil bags (recommended price 95 ag. to NIS 1.50), in cans (NIS 1.50 and up) and in family-sized bottles (NIS 3.75 to



(clockwise from top:) Tubtime lessons with Paide number puzzles; iron-on patches from Dora; a plastic baby-holder/recliner from Daphne.

NIS 4.50). Flavors include bubble gum, mango, apple, strawberry and grape.

Kofiko turned up earlier this year on bags of Carmel candies, a subsidiary of Osem.

I NEVER saw a purple dinosaur, and I never hoped to see one, but that is exactly the image which appears on the sample I received of new embroidered iron-on patches for children's clothes.

They are made by Dora of Ramat Gan, and come in a wide variety of designs.

Called Githuzim (from the Hebrew word for "ironing"), the patches retail for NIS 5.90 to NIS 9.90 at department stores, toy shops, baby-goods chains and pharmacies. They can be sewn on if you prefer.

Also in the accessories line: Little girls and their mothers should enjoy the whimsical hair barrettes



and ponytail fasteners called Show Offs, shaped as buttons, ice-cream cones and even baby pacifiers. Made in China and imported by Guri, they sell for NIS 6.90 a packet at chain stores and pharmacies.

CHILDREN WHO have mastered basic numbers and simple sums (in or out of the bathtub) can continue their math education at the computer screen. Bug Multi-

systems is marketing the new Hebrew version of a math game said to be a worldwide best-seller.

Called locally Heshbon B'kalil Kaluz ("math with the greatest of ease"), the computer game has 50,000 arithmetic exercises, spanning first- through sixth-grade levels and incorporated into an interstellar adventure story. The price is NIS 99 at the Bug chain and some other computer and bookshops.



Most skirts in Gideon Oberson's ready-to-wear collection - including this embroidered denim design - hover at mid-thigh.

Fashionably nostalgic

FLAIR

GREER FAY CASHMAN

FOR more than a decade, fashion shows have evolved into elaborate theatrical productions in which the clothes have become secondary to the entertainment.

Models move up and down the runways so quickly that viewers seldom have a chance to absorb the details of the garment.

It was therefore refreshing to have top-ranking designer Gideon Oberson unveil his new ready-to-wear collection in the tranquil intimacy of his studio, where he talked about soft lines and comfort without sacrificing elegance.

There was no catwalk. The models were all within touching distance, and special effects on individual items were clearly visible. Oberson kept up a steady patter, explaining how silk, chiffon, crepe, organza, linen, embroidered denim or viscose enhanced a particular concept recycled from reincarnated Forties' to Sixties' trends.

One of the pioneers of the North Tel Aviv fashion salons and boutiques, Oberson recently moved to a more centrally located Gordon Street address. The change of venue has not lowered

his prices, which still gravitate between NIS 1,500 and NIS 3,000.

Custom-made outfits cost a lot more, sometimes reaching into the five-digit range, depending on the fabric and the amount and intricacy of work involved in hand embroideries and beading.

What Oberson calls his "unkempt" look could otherwise be described as stylish slouch. Expressed in mix-and-match wide-legged, stretch-waisted pants suits paired with Chanel jackets, the unkempt look from Oberson's perspective is a departure from his constructed architectural lines.

Skirt lengths in day, late afternoon and evening wear hover, with few exceptions, at mid-thigh.

Classic femininity with just a hint of romance has consistently been the Oberson hallmark - more so this season with a rich choice of laces and embroideries pervading everything, including the sportiest of designs.

Oberson has limited his palette mainly to neutrals, focusing on stone and earth colors in the more casual ensembles and combining black and white for dramatic effect, even in his informal creations.

Makers of a cute car hope to attract a different, more serious clientele

MOTORING

JOEL GORDIN

MAZDA 121. Four-door, five-seater automobile. Engine size: 1,324 cc. Horsepower: 73 at 6,000. Automatic transmission.

Acceleration: 0-100kph in 11.4 sec. Top speed: 164 kph. Gasoline consumption: 20.1 km/l at 90 kph.

Price: NIS 49,900.

THE Mazda 121, whose little round body has attracted a great deal of attention on the road, has been sold here for about a year, but not in large numbers. Its main buyers, until now, have been those lucky families who can afford a second new car.

Now, Delek Motors, the local Mazda dealer, is trying to make local buyers take a more serious look at the 121. It has persuaded the Japanese company to send the automatic version, which is sold in Japan but not in Europe. Israelis are automatic-transmission

franks: now, one of every four 121s sold is an automatic.

The Japanese also helped by reducing the price to slightly less than NIS 50,000, making the 121 the cheapest automatic-shift model on sale, cheaper than both the Renault Clio and the Suzuki Swift. Performance-wise, however, it doesn't compare to either of them.

The 121 automatic is not a "driver's car," by any stretch of the imagination. Even in its manual version, the Mazda was not a rocker ship, but simply a sturdy capsule for getting from point A to point B. The automatic transmission has accentuated the sluggishness. It's necessary to push down all the way on the gas pedal and take the vehicle to the high revs to get some pep out of it, and even then there's much sound but little fury. There are some deep holes between the gears and the change down or up often comes at a surprising moment, making the drive jerky and unpleasant.

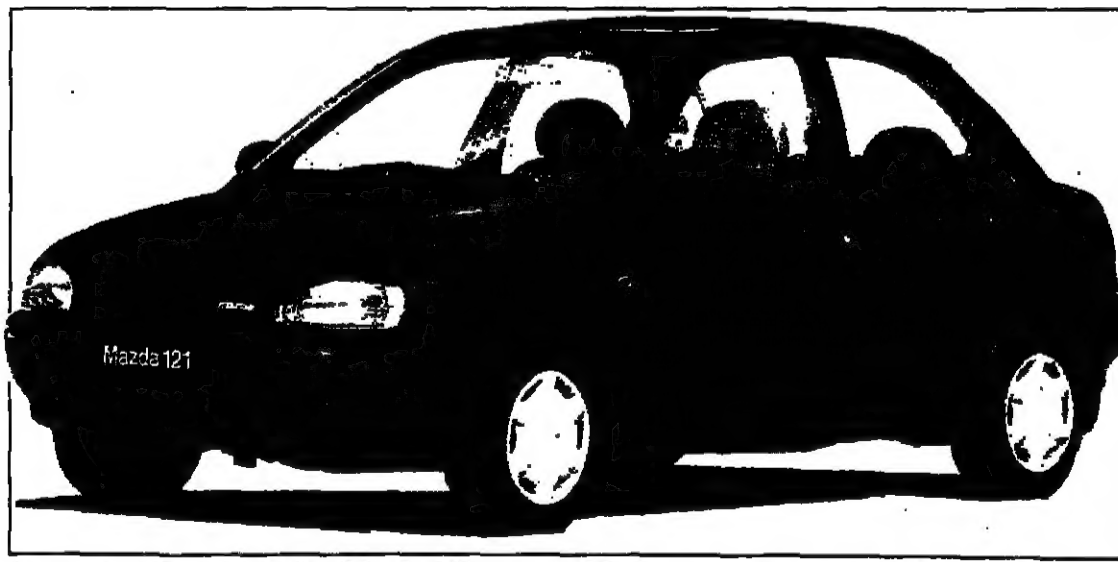
The transmission has all the modern conveniences, including overdrive (the ability to stop the

change-down into higher gears). It irritated me, however, that the overdrive button did not stay down while the overdrive was activated and I was never sure if I was actually in overdrive mode.

The ride is also marred by the suspension, which is too hard, and by the steering, which is too soft. Power steering is not available and driving in town involved much swinging of the steering wheel, which only seems to turn the wheels after it completes half a turn.

But those who want driving performance won't buy an automatic gear on a 1,300cc. car, anyway. On the plus side, the 121 is spacious, the roomiest 1300cc. car on the road. It's not strictly a hatchback, but the back seats can be pushed forward for even more loading space. It's made from good-quality materials and backed by a three-year guarantee. The air conditioner is first-class, though noisy at the high fan speeds.

However, the main reason some will "buy it - and some won't - are the bright colors, the high



The automatic-transmission Mazda 121 is surprisingly roomy but annoyingly sluggish.

round passenger compartment and the large windows that make it look as if it were driven straight off a Disneyland set.

THE 121's cute appearance does

not really extend to the interior except for the loud, floral design on the upholstery and the deep purple/midnight-blue hues in the speedometer and other dials. But it cannot compete in the cute inte-

rior category with the the Renault Twingo. The Twingo, which is stopping traffic throughout western Europe, is finally to make its appearance here this month. The local Renault agent, Carasso and

Sons, claims the reason for the delay was its insistence that the vehicle be supplied with an "original" (production line) air conditioner.

The Twingo is 3.4 meters long, shorter than any other model, but the unique design ensures there is ample legroom for four adults. The rear seat can be pushed forward or collapsed completely to form a double bed. The cheeky interior is best described as looking like a child's bedroom. Handles are made of brightly colored plastic and the upholstery is all shades of the rainbow. The speedometer and clocks are digital.

The Twingo will be reviewed in a future column, but we can report that the price has currently been set at NIS 47,777 for the manual version. Carasso promises an automatic version will arrive by year's end - which may spell trouble for the Mazda 121.

CORRECTION: The local Ford dealer is the Israel Automobile Company Ltd., and not as stated in last week's column.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

OFFERS

SHOE CABINET - new in package, 26 pairs. NIS 300. 04-445952.

WARDROBE - metal, white with shelves, 171/65. NIS 70; buffet, white plastic-wood, new. NIS 180. 02-509171.

PINE COT - like new. NIS 200; Snuggly baby chair, NIS 100. 06-460101.

LABORATORY WEIGHTS - NIS 75; Faber slide rule, NIS 25; ebony edge T-square, NIS 50. 02-6434970.

SUITCASE - new, with wheels, 75x53x24 cms. NIS 160. 04-342628.

PORCELAIN SERVICE - for 6, new coffee/tea set, Vienna. NIS 100; for 12, 7 pieces. NIS 200. 02-6902501.

ELECTRONIC ANSWERING MACHINE - NIS 250. 04-342628.

LAUNDRY TROLLEY - on wheels with basket, NIS 50. 04-827348.

GOLD-PLATED LIGHTER - Dupont of Paris. NIS 300. 02-6902501.

TWIN BED & FOAM MATTRESS - American, excellent condition, NIS 250; uterachair, NIS 50. 04-338465.

INFANT CAR SEAT - carrier chair, Evenflo, material seat cover with canopy, NIS 200; old records, NIS 25. 02-543029.

BOOKS - mystery, NIS 10; used winter coats, child size 5-6, girl or boy, NIS 25; child's Gap jeans 5-6, NIS 120. 06-589788.

MICROWAVE - NIS 150; lawn chairs, NIS 50 each; Walkman radio, NIS 45. 09-555402.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC - 1967-68, NIS 20 per copy; 1969-78, NIS 14 per copy; 1979-83, NIS 12 per copy. 06-943556. 8-9 p.m.

IVORY MINIATURES - detailed figures, collectors' items, 3 at NIS 100 each. Joseph. 04-750492.

3 MEN'S SHIRTS - M & S short-sleeved, striped, in original wrappers. U.K., 17 neck, NIS 80 each. 09-558172.

JOLLY CHEF - Cromex, electric, slices, shrubs, grates, new in box. NIS 100. 04-342628.

TYPEWRITER - Smith-Corona, electric, English characters, good condition, NIS 250. 04-343107.

FUR JACKET - medium size, as new, NIS 200; leather bag from Thailand, large, NIS 100. 02-296099.

SPEAKERS - Celestion studio deluxe, 12 inch, 80 watt, in teal-covered heavy boxes, NIS 200 each. 09-503002, evening/weekend.

COMPUTER PAPER - 8 1/2"x11" continuous feed, 4,000 sheets, NIS 110; sneakers, women's Keds style, white, new, 3 pairs, NIS 25 each. 03-6830361.

BOOKS - rich French library, for literature lovers, students, historians, Stendhal, Voltaire, Proust, Turgenev, others, NIS 30 each; concert records, rich, varied programs, famous musicians, NIS 15-20 each. 02-633650.

LEVI'S JEANS - used, in good condition, 33-34, 2 pairs, NIS 40 each; car radio/tape, old but in good condition, AM/FM, NIS 50. 02-732442.

CASSETTE TAPE RECORDER - hand-held, new with guarantee, Panasonic, NIS 200. 02-319676.

COOLER-IONIZER - Australian, NIS 250. 03-601126.

LEFTOVER WALLPAPER - lots, free. 02-813063.

COFFEE TABLE - circular glass top, metal base, NIS 300. 02-618604.

YOUTH BED FRAME - sturdy, NIS 100. 2

single mattresses, free. 02-722646. NIS 388074. Yad Sarah, 33 Yirmiyahu Street, Ramat Gan, Jerusalem.

FURNITURE - wanted by organization for new Russian olim, will collect. 02-788277.

FAMILY WITH DISABLED ADULT DAUGHTER - is seeking English-speaking female roommate with similar disabilities, to share accommodation in a new community residence in Jerusalem. For more information, call 02-866135. NIS.

PROPER CHAIR - for gynecological examinations needed by Jerusalem Center for the Aged. Call Sima/Devora, 02-718865. 02-718848.

HELP! - Advice to curb a heavy sparrow invasion, for a quiet garden. 02-562076.

ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA - in good condition. 02-816267.

METAL CABINET - used, for storage. 02-611240. NIS.

GYMNASTICS MANUAL - with stomach exercises. 02-734283.

REFRIGERATOR - 02-241282.

ELECTRIC FAN - 2 or 3 speeds. 02-611240. NIS.

"BRAINSTORM" VIDEO MOVIE - with Natalie Wood. 02-287686. NIS.

RADIO-CASSETTE - reasonable. 02-610735.

PHOTOGRAPHY ENLARGER - Rebecca. 02-932047. 02-931348.

VIOLETS AND OTHER STRING PLAYERS for amateur chamber orchestra. Mostly Baroque repertoire. 02-636733. James, or leave message.

PRINTER FOR COMPATIBLE - cheap. 02-418335.

TOP KITCHEN CABINETS - any condi-

tion. 02-511935. NIS.

CELLIST - amateur Baroque quartet (mixed consort), weekly meetings. 02-787606.

DINING TABLE AND CHAIRS - in good condition. 02-618483. NIS.

APPLE AND MAC COMPUTERS - for children's game room on moshav, any condition. 02-340668.

GENOCIDE 'VIDEOTAPE - by Arnold Schwarzenberg (1982), screened on Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes' Remembrance Day. 02-420955. NIS.

BOOKCASE - wood, preferably with glass doors. 02-722568.

CRIB - American size, good condition and good price. 02-536943. NIS.

SOFTBALL PLAYERS - top flight, to join Jerusalem League Association. Windmiller welcome. 02-931493.

SIAMESE MATE - male, sought for our exquisite female. 02-438298. 02-777331.

MEDIUM-SIZED DOG - Fox-like, cat-loving, male, 6 mos., mixed German shepherd and very cute, looking for a good new home. 02-781486.

GERMAN SHEPHERD/LABRADOR - Mild-mannered and sweet-natured, slight deformation with one paw but medically fit. 02-781486.

HELP ME LEARN ENGLISH - and I will help you learn Hebrew. 02-414399.

ENGLISH LESSONS (possibly Hebrew) to lady in exchange for spoken Arabic. 02-389260. NIS.

LOST & FOUND - CONFERENCE BAG (Bank Lemni) on April 10, containing certificates, letters, Joseph. 02-767377, evenings.

PETS - Kittens - healthy, affectionate, black, tortoiseshell, gray. One blind cat, One 4 months, mostly Siamese. Free to good homes. 02-265521. 02-415865.

Sorry, no listings accepted without a coupon

BARGAIN BASEMENT - FREE CLASSIFIEDS

BARGAIN BASEMENT accepts ads of up to 20 words free of charge on these conditions: Only one ad per household per week. THE LIMIT per ad in the "offers" section is a TOTAL of NIS 250, and the price of each item must be stated in the ad. The following ads are NOT accepted: business offers, apartment sales, rentals or exchanges; car sales; job offers; situations wanted; solicitations for donations; offers of marriage or other personal relationships. Ads must be printed in English and submitted on the attached coupon. ADS MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED BY PHONE OR FAX. The right to reject or edit any ad is reserved.

Ads must reach The Bargain Basement, The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, 9100 Jerusalem by NOON Sunday of the week of publication. Because of space limitations, ads may be held over and published the following week.

The price of each item must be stated

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Tel. _____

MESSAGE _____

Burden of proof

RICHARD HARWOOD

B.H. Saffitz, a much respected and often featured New York Times pundit, has written 20 or so columns since early 1992 on what he believes to be one of the greatest scandals in the history of man. From a column published on November 12, 1992, he wrote: "The first global political scandal is the story of the three major powers [U.S., Italy and Britain] are implicated in a criminal conspiracy."

Tragedy, said Saffitz, is a story of the Bush administration helped Saddam Hussein's war machine with American tax dollars. Saffitz claimed that "the money" was used to finance Hussein's nuclear buildup.

When the Clinton administration came to power last year it produced no evidence of any global scandal, whereas in Saffitz's opinion it signed the President Clinton had become part of the conspiracy.

Under the headline "The Fox Hunt" Saffitz wrote: "George Bush probably assured Bill Clinton that he would not continue the new president during the first year of his term." Mr. Bush has been his word.

The truth about 'Iraqgate'

THIS IS NOT A STORY that will prove to be any more scandalous than O.J. Simpson's trial. It is a story that is a good reminder of the need for justice and accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1994

THE JERUSALEM POST

BUSINESS & FINANCE

'S' indicator jumps 1.9%

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Bank of Israel's "S", or state of the economy indicator, jumped 1.9 percent last month, reflecting the significant expansion of economic activity in the first quarter.

The preliminary figures released yesterday follow increases of 0.8% in February and 1.1% in January. During the first quarter of the year, the index rose 3.8% compared with 2.2% in the previous quarter.

The Bank of Israel reported that index indicators do not yet reflect the moderating influence of the closure of the territories.

Retail sales shot up 5.6% last month. Although this figure is seasonally adjusted, the rise was nevertheless influenced by Pessah sales.

Imports fell a dramatic 7.4%. However, imports during the first quarter were on average 6% higher than in the previous quarter.

Industrial production dropped 0.8% in February, after jumping 3.8% in the previous month.

As a result, industrial production levels were about 2% higher than in the last quarter of 1993.

The number of jobs in the business sector remained unchanged in February.

Both industrial production and job figures for last month will only be available next month, as there is a two-month reporting lag.

Court places Tsubari under house arrest, sets bail at NIS 450,000

RAINE MARCUS

with Bank Discount employees, released on bail more than a month ago, to manipulate securities.

Authority representative, Michael Nevo-Barak, asked for a nine-day remand in custody "to prevent him from concealing evidence or influencing other suspects."

But Judge Dan Arbel ruled that since other suspects had been released on bail, the chances that Tsubari could disrupt the investigation were slim.

Tsubari acting as intermediary of Bank Discount stock exchange

dealer Ehud Ya'acov, functioned as the "rescuer and manipulator in their three-point method - to finance, manipulate and then to rescue," Nevo-Barak said.

Investigators said that initially Bank Discount employee Arye Adler bought a specific share using his own bank account, acting on instructions given by Yitzhak Cohen, also a Bank Discount dealer on the bourse and working in collaboration with Ya'acov.

The purchase was made near the time that Bank Discount's investments committee authorized

the sale of the share, but before Discount provided funds had ample time to purchase the same share.

Cohen, Mordechai Merkado (in charge of Discount's dealers at the stock exchange) and Ya'acov advised Adler which share to buy, according to allegations.

Ya'acov allegedly leaked Cohen's and Merkado's decision to Tsubari and coordinated with him which shares, chosen by Gmulet, to buy at the same time as Adler bought the same share.

They then manipulated the

shares and profits made were allegedly divided between all participants, investigators said.

Tsubari allegedly received 40% of the total profits. Arbel ruled that evidence presented to him against Tsubari was weak, and that although further investigation is justified the court should take care not to remand in custody a man with no criminal record who has not been arrested previously.

Contrary to other suspects, Tsubari denied all allegations. For this reason, investigators had requested his remand in custody, his lawyer said.

Economy roars ahead in 1st quarter

JOSE ROSENFELD

INDUSTRIAL production, industrial imports and local consumption rose significantly during the first quarter of the year, while export increases moderated and cement sales fell dramatically, according to Central Bureau of Statistics indicators published yesterday.

During the first quarter of the year, goods exports expanded at an annual rate of 8.3 percent compared to a 7.4% drop in the previous quarter.

Industrial exports, which make up a third of industrial production, increased 11% after shrinking by 9% in the fourth quarter last year. The rise reflects solely the growth of machine and electronics exports, as other industrial exports fell.

Imports, however, shot up 46.9% in the first quarter compared to a more moderate rise of 15.4% in the preceding quarter.

Industrial machinery, equipment and vehicle imports alone jumped 108% compared to 41% in the previous quarter.

The increase reflects a 106% increase in machinery and equipment imports and a 112% rise in vehicle imports.

Consumer imports registered a respectable increase of 47% compared to 16.3% in the fourth quarter last year. Imports of industrial production inputs rose a more modest 26.8% compared to 7.1% in the previous quarter.

Durable consumer imports jumped 40% after shrinking by 1% in the fourth quarter last year.

The more rapid expansion of imports over exports led to a larger trade deficit. During the first quarter, the trade gap averaged \$480 million a month, or \$5.7 billion annually, compared to \$370m. a month in the previous quarter.

Retail trade took off, rising 32.6% last quarter compared to only 2.6% in the previous quarter. Food sales, which make up a major part of retail trade, rose at an annual rate of 32% after increasing 4% in the preceding quarter.

Cement sales, an indicator of construction activity, shrunk 70.2% in the first two months of the year compared to a 42.5% rise in the last two months of 1993.

Wages, excluding those of territory workers, remained unchanged from October of last year to January compared to the same period in the previous year.

During that period, private sector wages fell between 1% and 2%, while public service sector wages rose 2%.

Private sector employee's work week hours rose 17% in the last quarter of 1993, while public service work hours increased a more moderate 4.1%.

Seasonally adjusted inflation rose at a yearly rate of 10% in the first quarter compared to 16% in the previous quarter.

The exchange rate of the currency basket rose at an annual rate of 2% in the first quarter compared to 9% in the fourth quarter last year.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.

JOIN IDS TELEBANK
DIAL 03-5191111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM

IDS ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK



Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal and Chinese Electricity Minister Shi Dazahn congratulate one another yesterday after signing a memorandum of understanding to promote cooperation between their ministries. Potential areas of cooperation include solar energy and the production of electricity cables.

Electric Corp. signs contracts to raise \$124m. for projects

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Israel Electric Corporation has signed contracts to raise \$124 million for financing projects to reinforce the country's electricity production network, chairman Adi Amori announced yesterday.

The capital will be used to purchase four gas turbines and complement financing for construction of the company's coal power station.

Electric Corp. said the capital was raised at convenient conditions.

The company raised approximately \$75m. through the issue of company bonds, which are guaranteed by the US-based EXIM Bank.

Amori said Electric Corp. received the proceeds of the issue on Tuesday.

The capital will be used to finance 85% of the cost of acquiring

four industrial gas turbines from General Electric.

The financing is for an 8.5-year period at an interest rate of 6.88%. The repayment period starts in December.

Amori also signed an agreement with Axim bank to receive a direct loan of \$49m. to help finance the construction of its new power station in Hadera.

The loan will be repaid within 8.5 years, starting in 1996 at a fixed interest rate of 6.84%.

Treasury, Bank of Israel: Government losing tens of millions of dollars on US loan guarantees

EVELYN GORDON

THE government is losing tens of millions of dollars on the US loan guarantees, Treasury and Bank of Israel officials told the Knesset finance committee's capital markets subcommittee yesterday.

Subcommittee chairman Silvan Shalom (Likud) scheduled the meeting following reports earlier this week that the state comptroller was investigating the matter.

However, none of the other MKs bothered to show up for the session.

According to Shalom, the officials invited to the committee said \$1.8 billion of the \$3b. in guarantees which have been received so far are not being used.

Instead, they are being treated as part of the country's foreign currency reserves and deposited in banks overseas, where they earn an interest rate of about 3%.

Since the government is paying

7½% interest on the guarantees, the net loss is tens of millions of dollars, Shalom said.

The Treasury would like to make an additional \$500m. of this money available to the banks to use for commercial loans, but the Bank of Israel says this is impossible unless the laws governing liquidity requirements are changed.

The Treasury has therefore prepared new legislation, which is now being considered by the ministerial committee on economics.

Even if this additional \$500m. were released, however, there would still be \$1.3b. sitting in the bank, Shalom noted.

"The money goes to Israel and there's no use for it," he said.

Shalom said that in light of this, he plans to submit legislation to cancel the guarantees arrangement.

Committee to suggest raising workers' pension contribution

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Treasury's Fogel committee on pension fund reform is expected to recommend raising the salary pension contribution from 17.5 percent of wages to 21%, as a way to reduce the funds' NIS 31.4 billion actuarial deficit, which is threatening to topple the country's pension system.

According to reports that appeared yesterday in Ha'aretz and in Globes, the panel, headed by Treasury Director-General Aharon Fogel, is expected to increase employers' pension contributions to 15% of wages instead of 14.3% currently and set aside 6% instead of 5.5% of the workers' wages.

In addition, the contributions to severance pay funds, which constitute 2.3% of wages, will also be transferred to the pension fund.

The committee will recommend gradually phasing out state-funded pension programs that cover government workers by having them join regular actuarially sound pension funds.

The committee will suggest raising women's retirement age from

60 to 65 for those that are 50 years old or younger.

The government will cut its subsidy to the pension funds by reducing the issue of special non-tradeable bonds yielding 5.5% interest instead of the significantly lower market rate.

Currently, 92% of pension fund assets are invested in the high-yield government bonds. Under the proposed reform, only 40% of the assets will be invested in those bonds. The pension funds will have to invest their remaining assets on the capital markets.

The Fogel committee recommendations have been held up by the Histadrut's opposition to the plan to require their pension funds to turn to the capital markets for their investments.

Treasury spokesman Eli Yoseph said that the reports on the pension reforms are inaccurate and that they are based on old drafts. He added that many of the details have changed in the past few weeks.

Panel discusses bills protecting consumer in financial system

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset began work on two bills to aid the consumer vis-a-vis the financial system yesterday.

The finance committee discussed a private member's bill by committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) that would make it easier for a customer to switch banks, while the law committee began work on a government bill to allow the consumer to stop credit card payments if for some reason he didn't receive the merchandise he ordered.

Gal's bill would also apply the rules governing bank-customer relations to relations between the banks and loan guarantors, who currently do not enjoy this protection.

Gal said he hoped the committee could finish the bill in one more session.

The committee also discussed a private member's bill by Haim Kaufman (Likud), which would require banks to publish information about their fees on their bank statements.

The banks object to the bill on

the grounds that it would cost too much.

The committee agreed that the Bank of Israel should prepare an estimate of the costs and report back to the committee.

In the law committee, the government's bill created a deep split among the members.

Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) supported the bill, saying it was unjust for the consumer to have to pay for a product he never received.

The credit card companies, he said, are in a much better position than the consumer to sue the supplier and recover their money.

Former justice minister Dan Meridor (Likud) argued in response that the government has no business getting involved in relations between the credit card companies and their customers.

Yitzhak Levy (NRP) added that the credit card company is merely giving the customer a loan, so the customer has no more right to refuse to repay it than he would to refuse to repay an ordinary bank loan.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Jerusalem manufacturers call for cooperation with Palestinians:

Shaike Altuvia, chairman of the Jerusalem branch of the Manufacturers Association, yesterday called for the establishment of an economic council to promote cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians. Altuvia noted that Jerusalem is a prime location for serving as a bridge for such cooperation.

He said the government must establish a second stock market in Jerusalem, called the Peace Bourse, that will serve the local high-tech industry and allow Palestinian firms to issue stock and invest. Altuvia warned that lack of industrial space could choke the capital's development. Last year, \$122 million was invested in developing Jerusalem's industry.

Knesset ethics committee condemns attacks on Shapira: The Knesset ethics committee yesterday condemned MK Ra'anana Cohen for publishing accusations against former Carmel Carpets owner Avraham Shapira for not cooperating with the official receiver's investigations into the firm's collapse. The committee instructed Cohen to cease publications which are not checked sufficiently and do not give the accused the opportunity to react.

'Grey market' maximum rate set at 36.65%: The Bank of Israel yesterday published the average rate banks charge for unlinked credit as required by the law which limits the maximum interest non-banking institutions can charge. Under the law, non-banking institutions, better known as the "grey market" are allowed to charge up to 2½ times the average bank rate. Based on February's average rate of 16.25 percent, the "grey market" can charge up to 36.65% interest on unlinked loans.

Hapoalim offers customers savings plan linked to Wall Street: Bank Hapoalim is offering customers a new savings plan linked to Wall Street. At the end of Hapoalim's Gate To Wall Street plan, savers receive full linkage to the dollar in addition to the rise in the S&P 500 index and a special bonus. Savers can choose between two routes - a two year flexible route with the option to continue for another seven years and a five-year route.

Investment Center gets new computer program: Industrial Development Bank has developed a computer program to facilitate presentation of requests for government assistance and ease the economic surveys the bank performs for the Industry and Trade Ministry's Investment Center. The program can be used in a standard PC.

Mini-Line signs marketing agreement with Motorola department: The Israel Telephone marketing department of Motorola's European Cellular Subscriber Division has signed a marketing agreement with appliance chain Mini-Line. A special line of cellular phones and accessories is expected to be available as early as June 1 through Mini-Line's 120 distribution outlets.

Bank of Jerusalem increases net profit: Bank of Jerusalem for Development & Mortgage completed the first quarter of the year with rise in net profit to NIS 1.19 million from NIS 1.5m. in the corresponding quarter last year.

Digital dedicates new \$7 million building in Jerusalem: A \$7 million building that accommodates 80 experts designing the most advanced chips for use in computers around the world was dedicated by Digital in Jerusalem's Har Hotzvim industrial park earlier this week. The impressive stone-and-mirrored-glass building becomes the permanent home of Digital, which established a branch here in 1973 and a chip design center nine years ago. Until now, the design center was housed in overcrowded, rented premises in the Talpiot quarter.

Tnuva invests \$3.5m. in new yogurt production line: Tnuva has invested \$3.5 million in a new production line for yogurt at the company's dairy in Tel Aviv. The new line will manufacture fruit and grain flavored yogurts based on European know-how.

Eshed Robotek announces NIS 2.2m. net loss for 1993: Eshed Robotek announced an annual net loss of NIS 2.2 million last year, in sharp contrast to a NIS 6.7m. net profit for 1992. Profits were reduced by a NIS 2.1m. investment in Bin-Nun Engineering Ltd., investments in securities and the fall in the securities market. Most significant were increased costs in research and development, marketing and sales. R&D costs rose some 35% to NIS 4.2m. from NIS 3.1m., while research grants declined from NIS 1.15m. to NIS 1m.

Net profits for the fourth quarter fell sharply to NIS 1.1m. from NIS 2.6m.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (27.4.94)					
Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	3.500	3.875	4.500		
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.625	3.750	4.250		
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.500	4.375	4.375		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.875	2.875	2.875		
Yen (10 million yen)	0.675	0.675	1.000		

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (27.4.94)					
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BUY	SELL	BANKNOTES	BUY	SELL
Currency basket	3.2460	3.2820	2.94	3.08	3.2684
U.S. dollar	2.9835	3.0356	2.94	3.08	3.0130
German mark	1.7877	1.8130	1.76	1.84	1.7881
Pound sterling	4.5068	4.5695	4.41	4.62	4.5406
French franc	0.5200	0.5273	0.50	0.54	0.5236
Japanese yen (100)	2.8148	2.8550	2.86	3.00	2.8205
Dutch guilder	1.5915	1.6140	1.56	1.64	1.6006
Swiss franc	2.0942	2.1238	2.06	2.15	2.1054
Swedish krona	0.3829	0.3882	0.38	0.39	0.3851
Norwegian krona	0.4112	0.4170	0.40	0.42	0.4138
Danish krone	0.4646	0.4689	0.45	0.47	0.4637
Finnish mark	0.5503	0.5581	0.54	0.57	0.5538
Canadian dollar	2.1771	2.2079	2.14	2.24	2.1921
Australian dollar	2.1418	2.1721	2.08	2.20	2.1584
S. African rand	0.8382	0.8480	0.61	0.77	0.8416
Belgian franc (10)	0.8686	0.8809	0.85	0.88	0.8737
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5412	2.5771	2.50	2.62	2.5579
Italian lire (1000)	1.8600	1.8882	1.82	1.92	1.8723
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.13	4.29	4.2031
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.96	—	0.9039
ECU	3.4515	3.5003	—	—	4.4014
Irish punt	4.3615	4.4232	4.26	4.52	4.4014
Spanish peseta (100)	2.1898	2.2208	2.13	2.28	2.2024

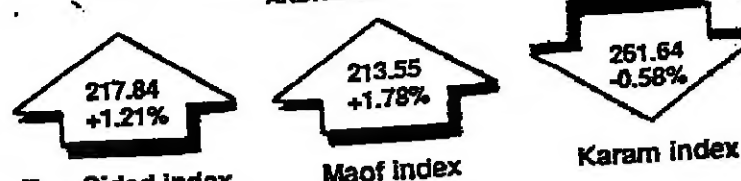
* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUM

Upbeat economic report rallies Two-Sided, Maof

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSIO



THE market opened mixed and rallied in the course of trading to close on an upbeat note yesterday. The Two-Sided Index rose 1.2 percent and the Maof 1.8%, although the Karam Index, which remained caught in the morning doldrums, closed down 0.6%.

Turnover rose from Tuesday's low level to NIS 223 million.

Part of the improvement in investor mood was clearly due to the announcement that the Composite Index of Economic Activity published by the Bank of Israel rose by nearly 4% in the first quarter.

This clearly put to rest the fears that the economy was entering a slowdown and that growth goals might not be met.

It also puts under a different light the possibility that the central bank might raise interest rates as a way to prevent the economy from developing inflationary pressures.

In any case, it was good news for the market. Since it was announced in early afternoon, it could not do much good for the Karam and Meretz markets.

It was felt, however, on the Two-Sided and Maof markets.

The fact that the Maof Index rose more sharply than the Two-Sided is a clear illustration that the investing public prefers the blue chips at this stage.

Rises outnumbered losers by a 2 to 1 margin on the Two-Sided market.

IDB Development was up 1%, Elron 2%, First International Bank 1% increased 4%, Discount Investment 2.3%, Koor 3.5%, Industrial building 3.8% and Makh-Teshim was up 3%.

Cial Electronics rose 3.5% in expectation of the Scitex results.

On the general Two-Sided list, the noticeable news was on the down side.

Cohen Development dropped 4.7% on a meager turnover of NIS 265,000.

It was apparently reacting to receiving the prize for the most "dangerous" security on the market, according to a research report published by Betuha.

The Industrial Development Bank which was named a runner-up, dropped 3.2%. Other companies which only placed were not affected, such as the Meir Ezra companies.

Meir Ezra actually rose 0.5%, while T-Bone Veal declined 0.2%.

As in previous days, the portfolio managers were the active buyers on the trading floor.

FTSE Index closes strong on revived corporate activity

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON - The FTSE 100 closing at the day's high, in a market enlivened by revived corporate activity, with a possible bid for LASMO.

The FTSE 100 ended 24.7 points higher at 3,150.0.

FRANKFURT - German share prices closed the session off the day's highs but higher on the day, as DAX futures prices bounced off lows and demand for Daimler and chemical stocks propped the market.

The DAX-30 index ended at 2,253.57, up 10.37 points on the day.

PARIS - French shares finished higher, buoyed by the Bundesbank's 11 basis point cut in its repo rate this morning.

Economists think the German central bank's move could allow the Bank of France to cut its intervention rate by 10 basis points as early as tomorrow.

But traders pointed to the franc's weakness as suggesting otherwise. The CAC-40 index ended up 16.41 at 2,147.32.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended firmer, helped by stronger bond futures and higher stock markets elsewhere in Europe, dealers said.

After a strong opening, prices slipped back toward the mid-session, but then recovered somewhat in afternoon trading, despite a lack of major incentives with Wall Street closed.

The all-share SPI ended 6.97 points firmer at 1,809.93.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks ended firmer on index-linked buying by investment trusts just before the close, although the rise was exaggerated by very thin volume.

The Nikkei average closed up 100.22 points at 19,729.15.

HONG KONG - Stocks closed sharply lower on a lack of fresh incentives to extend Tuesday's sharp gains and a modest retreat on Wall Street overnight.

The blue chip Hang Seng Index lost 215.39 points at 9,113.25.

SYDNEY - A huge arbitrage-related transaction helped swing the Australian stock market into negative territory at the close, with bonds also finishing weaker.

The All Ordinaries index closed 9.7 points down at 2,059.71 points.

JOHANNESBURG - The markets were closed yesterday for election day.

GATT timetable slips on German bananas

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Commission's hopes of quickly finalizing the last stages of European Union approval of the GATT Uruguay Round accord were dashed yesterday.

Diplomats said officials of national governments shelved their consideration pending a judgment in Germany's court challenge to the EU's new banana import rules.

"We can't send it (the GATT accord) to the May plenary (session of the European Parliament)," one diplomat said, disappointing the Commission's wish that the assembly would give its assent to the package in Strasbourg next week at its last plenary session before elections in June.

The Commission had wanted the other EU institutions to lose no time in approving the package in order to maximize chances of getting the global trade liberalization deal implemented on time on January 1 next year.

One diplomat said the fact that parliamentarianism would now have to wait until the autumn did not send the right kind of signal to the EU's trading partners.

He said he did not think there was any doubt that the incoming parliament would approve the GATT texts, although it would have been easier to get it through the outgoing assembly.

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg said yesterday it would rule by October 6 on Germany's complaint that the new banana import rules violated the terms of the GATT accord and were not justified under the Treaty of Rome.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FF
MARK	0.387176	61.2023	0.833306	2.438843
STERLING	2.510968	153.9911	2.146191	8.825775
YEN	1.622444	0.646995	1.363348	5.603278
SFR	1.171025	0.663980	71.7176	28.3677
FF	0.291014	0.156958	17.8085	0.243967

Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 3.0130	+ 0.20%
Sterling	NIS 4.5406	+ 1.39%
Mark	NIS 1.7391	+ 0.72%

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Point	Last	Change
Germany (DME)	1.937	-0.0002
France (DME)	1.935	0
Japan (DME)	1.933	-0.0007
UK (DME)	1.931	-0.0007
Italy (DME)	1.929	-0.0007
Spain (DME)	1.927	-0.0007
Belgium (DME)	1.925	-0.0007
Netherlands (DME)	1.923	-0.0007
Sweden (DME)	1.921	-0.0007
Denmark (DME)	1.919	-0.0007
Finland (DME)	1.917	-0.0007
Portugal (DME)	1.915	-0.0007
Greece (DME)	1.913	-0.0007
Turkey (DME)	1.911	-0.0007
South Africa (DME)	1.909	-0.0007
India (DME)	1.907	-0.0007
China (DME)	1.905	-0.0007
South Korea (DME)	1.903	-0.0007
Thailand (DME)	1.901	-0.0007
Malaysia (DME)	1.899	-0.0007
Singapore (DME)	1.897	-0.0007
Hong Kong (DME)	1.895	-0.0007
Taiwan (DME)	1.893	-0.0007
Philippines (DME)	1.891	-0.0007
Indonesia (DME)	1.889	-0.0007
Brunei (DME)	1.887	-0.0007
Myanmar (DME)	1.885	-0.0007
Burma (DME)	1.883	-0.0007
Cambodia (DME)	1.881	-0.0007
Laos (DME)	1.879	-0.0007
Vietnam (DME)	1.877	-0.0007
North Vietnam (DME)	1.875	-0.0007
South Vietnam (DME)	1.873	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.871	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.869	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.867	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.865	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.863	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.861	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.859	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.857	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.855	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.853	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.851	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.849	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.847	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.845	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.843	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.841	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.839	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.837	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.835	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.833	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.831	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.829	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.827	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.825	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.823	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.821	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.819	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.817	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.815	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.813	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.811	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.809	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.807	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.805	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.803	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.801	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.799	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.797	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.795	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.793	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.791	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.789	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.787	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.785	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.783	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.781	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.779	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.777	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.775	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.773	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.771	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.769	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.767	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.765	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.763	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.761	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.759	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.757	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.755	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.753	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.751	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.749	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.747	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.745	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.743	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.741	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.739	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.737	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.735	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.733	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.731	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.729	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.727	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.725	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.723	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.721	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.719	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.717	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.715	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.713	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.711	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.709	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.707	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.705	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.703	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.701	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.699	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.697	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.695	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.693	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.691	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.689	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.687	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.685	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.683	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.681	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.679	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.677	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.675	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.673	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.671	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.669	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.667	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.665	-0.0007
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East Timor (DME)	1.583	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.581	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.579	-0.0007
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East Timor (DME)	1.543	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.541	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.539	-0.0007
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East Timor (DME)	1.475	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.473	-0.0007
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East Timor (DME)	1.443	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.441	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.439	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.437	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.435	-0.0007
West Timor (DME)	1.433	-0.0007
East Timor (DME)	1.431	-0.0007

'Auschwitz Lie not covered by free speech'
MARJORIE MILLER

BONN
GERMANY'S highest court ruled on Tuesday that those who spread the "Auschwitz Lie" — the false claim that the Holocaust ever took place — are not protected by freedom of speech and may be banned from public.

The Constitutional Court, Germany's equivalent of the US Supreme Court, said the extermination of 6 million Jews in Hitler's and Holocaust denial was a "grave offense."

The court backed the city of Munich, which had threatened to break up a rally by the radical rightist National Democratic Party on March 12, 1991, if the party's planned speech denied the Holocaust had occurred. The party later sued the city for violating members' freedom of speech.

But "proven unfounded statements do not have the protection of freedom of speech," Justice Dietrich said after the decision was released in Karlsruhe. "Dissemination of the killing of the Jews during the Third Reich is such a statement. This statement also is an insult to those Jews living in Germany today."

The high court's position would seem to be a reversal of the stance taken by the German appeals court last month, when it ruled in another case that the National Democratic Party's leader, Gerd Hager, could not be convicted of inciting racial hatred simply for denying the Holocaust. German courts have long been divided on whether Holocaust denial is a criminal act and linked to Nazi ideology.

In Germany, it is illegal to use a false Holocaust story to stir up racial hatred, or to give the Nazis a bad name. German courts have long been divided on whether Holocaust denial is a criminal act and linked to Nazi ideology. The court's decision is a landmark ruling, as it is the first time a German court has ruled that Holocaust denial is a criminal act.

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Bundesbank allows 'repo' rate to drop

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — The German central bank yesterday sanctioned another drop in a key money-market interest rate, underlining Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer's message that the bank would continue to test the scope for rate cuts.

German stocks and government bonds took heart from the news the Bundesbank had allowed the securities repurchase rate, or "repo" rate, to drop to 5.47 percent from 5.58 percent.

By permitting the decline, the Bundesbank lent weight to comments from Tietmeyer on Tuesday in New York. He emphasized that German rates would continue on a downward path.

"Certainly, we will continue to explore the scope for reducing interest rates as we did just 10 days ago," said Tietmeyer in a speech to the American Council on Germany.

The Bundesbank last cut its official rates on April 15. It dropped the discount rate to five percent from 5.25 percent and the Lombard rate to 6.50 percent from 6.75 percent. The repo rate — which sets the

tone for other money market interest rates — is the rate banks pay for funds in return for securities which they agree to buy back at a later date.

The Bundesbank has permitted the repo to fall from six percent since the beginning of March, but the pace of these falls has accelerated over the past two weeks.

This week's 11 basis point repo cut follows one of 12 basis points. Both reductions represented far more aggressive easing than the three to four basis point reductions seen in late March and early April.

But analysts do not expect repo rate declines to continue at this pace, nor do they foresee a cut in leading rates at the Bundesbank's council meeting today.

"We'll see slower rate falls in the next weeks. Rates will keep falling but not at the same tempo," a Frankfurt-based BHF Bank economist said.

Analysts attributed the speed of the recent repo declines to the Bundesbank's wish to dissociate its monetary policy from that of the US Federal Reserve, which has gently nudged US money market rates higher over the past three months.

"The Bundesbank has in part wanted to express that the rise in US interest rates would not frighten it from its path [of lower rates]. The Bundesbank will go ahead. [It wanted to get] this message across," the BHF economist said.

On the news, German federal government bond futures jumped 14 basis points to the day's high at 94.89, although they subsequently pared these gains.

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Japanese vehicle exports plunge 18%

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan's automobile exports fell steeply in the year to March 31 and will continue dropping as makers move production abroad to cope with a strong yen and stiff competition, industry sources said yesterday.

"Japan's exports will fall more in 1994/95 as a result of an increasing production shift overseas," said Hiroshi Suemasa, a senior analyst at Kankaku Research Institute Inc.

"We have no forecast for Japan's vehicle exports in 1994/95, but 1994/95 exports are sure to fall, mainly because of higher overseas production by Japanese car-makers," said an official of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA).

JAMA reported vehicle exports fell 18.3% to 4.62 million units in 1993/94, the second straight annual decline.

The drop was the largest ever recorded in percentage terms, exceeding a record 6% drop in 1989/90. The volume of exports was at its lowest level since 4.14 million in 1978/79, the official said.

In value, terms, exports fell

2.4% to \$80.09 billion in 1993/94 — the first decline in four years.

"Exports will fall to just above four million units this year," Suemasa said.

Toyota Motor Corp. has said it will boost overseas production to 1.02 million vehicles in calendar 1994 from 890,000 in 1993, including a rise in annual output to 300,000 at its US operations in Georgetown, Ky., from 200,000 in 1993.

Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. would increase overseas output to 1.1 million in 1994 from 1.01 million, a spokesman said. In December, Nissan projected 1994 exports of 550,000 vehicles, down from 684,088 in 1993.

The other major Japanese car-makers — Honda Motor Co. Ltd., Mitsubishi Motors Corp., and Mazda Motor Corp. — also said they would boost overseas production.

"Shifting production overseas is necessary to survive with the strong yen. Auto-makers and auto-parts makers which have no overseas production units will not survive," Suemasa said.

Schneider's company CIP files for bankruptcy

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — Another pillar of the crumbling empire of fugitive property tycoon Juergen Schneider collapsed yesterday when its administration company CIP applied for bankruptcy, the latest in a series of filings.

The Frankfurt district court said CIP Center Immobilien und Pasingen AG, which also administered the prestigious Zeilgalerie shopping mall in central Frankfurt, filed for bankruptcy early yesterday and that proceedings had opened.

The court was unable to cite details of the filing but said a creditors' meeting would be held on June 16.

This latest news comes hard on the heels of bankruptcy applications from the group's main company Dr. Juergen Schneider AG and its construction consultancy agency TechnoTeam Bauconsult.

Bankruptcy proceedings have also been opened against the group's owner Juergen Schneider and his wife Claudia at the request of creditor banks.

On Tuesday, German justice

authorities issued an arrest warrant for Schneider who disappeared three weeks ago, owing creditor banks more than \$3 billion.

His whereabouts are still unknown.

The Frankfurt public prosecutor's office said the warrant was issued on suspicion of fraud and falsification of documents connected with a loan from Deutsche Bank AG in 1992 for the Zeilgalerie shopping arcade project.

Deutsche, owed some \$717 million by Schneider, is the collapsed group's largest creditor. It plans to hold an extraordinary supervisory board meeting on May 10 which the *Frankfurter Rundschau* newspaper said would deal exclusively with the Schneider case.

Meanwhile, Swiss officials yesterday stepped up moves to limit creditors' losses and ordered 19 banks in Zurich to freeze any accounts belonging to Schneider, following similar moves in Geneva on Tuesday, the Swiss news agency reported.

The agency said the Zurich dis-

trict prosecutor's office believed the banks, including major Swiss banks and branches of German banks, might have Schneider money.

Swiss authorities in Geneva said on Tuesday they had blocked \$140m. in one Geneva bank account suspected of belonging to Schneider.

Accounts at other Geneva banks were also blocked in connection with investigations into Schneider. Some accounts were in Schneider's name and others held indirectly through people thought to have acted on his behalf.

Deutsche Bank chairman Hilmar Kopper said on Monday that Schneider had absconded with \$131m. and that attempts to seize the money had so far failed.

Kopper, whose bank has faced withering public criticism of its handling of the Schneider loans, said Deutsche Bank was also a victim in the affair.

However, while the plight of businesses owed some \$150m. by Schneider has aroused considerable public outrage, banking chiefs have had less favorable receptions.

The agency said the Zurich dis-

VW shares fall on Lopez probe

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — Shares in Volkswagen AG, Europe's biggest car-maker, fell yesterday on reports that an investigation into its senior purchasing manager may have uncovered evidence of industrial espionage.

In a higher bourse, VW fell 10.80 by mid-morning to 528 marks, with the share also suffering from investors switching into industrial group Daimler-Benz AG, on hopes of a recovery at its car and truck unit Mercedes-Benz.

The public prosecutor's office in Darmstadt said plans for an assembly plant in Spain's Basque country found in the office of VW manager Jose Ignacio Lopez Arriortua corresponded with Opel plans for a factory there.

Daimler was trading 6.50 marks higher at 898.

Opel, a unit of US car giant GM, alleges that Lopez and a group of managers took industrial secrets with them when they left the company to join VW. Lopez is implementing a key part of VW's recovery strategy, pushing through rigorous cost cuts.

The office said its investigation into alleged industrial espionage by Lopez against Adam Opel AG had not been completed and that further inquiries were needed.

The office also said that as part of its search of VW's Wolfsburg headquarters last year it had found a computer disc "in the private sphere" around Lopez which contained information about cost-saving programs for vehicles of General Motors.



The minivan, an American institution, has caught on with European car buyers. A Peugeot Monospace 'Alize' 806 attracts attention at the recent Geneva Auto Show in Switzerland. (AP)

Bayer first-quarter profits up 18%

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — German chemicals giant Bayer AG yesterday posted an 18 percent increase in first-quarter profits, and said the positive business trend seen so far this year confirmed its optimistic outlook.

Group pre-tax profit in the first three months of the year rose to \$448 million, from \$380m. in the same period in 1993. Group sales climbed to \$6.52 billion, from \$6.14b.

At the parent company level, pre-tax profit rose to \$255 million from \$214m.

The results were broadly in line

with analysts' forecasts of pre-tax profit between \$433-\$454m.

In its first quarter report, Bayer confirmed its forecast made last month that 1994 profits would rise between 15% and 20% from 1993.

"We are confident that we can increase profit this year by 15 to 20%," the company said.

Sales rose in all divisions in the first quarter, with polymers sales rising to \$1.12b. from \$1.03b. Turnover in Bayer's key pharmaceutical division rose to \$1.44b. from \$1.35b.

Business developments so far this year confirmed Bayer's optimistic

expectations, the company said.

"We assume that the worldwide economic scene will continue to improve slightly in the course of the year, with exchange rates and raw materials prices remaining broadly steady," it said.

Measures taken to improve Bayer structurally would yield results and should be aggressively pursued, it said.

The group attributed the first-quarter profit improvement mainly to the cutbacks it had made.

Through these steps, the firm was able to lower the break-even point significantly, Bayer said.

Solidarity extends strikes

KATOWICE, Poland (Reuters) — Poland's Solidarity union yesterday increased the pressure on the government by extending strikes in coal mines and announcing plans for further protests.

Miners at six coal pits joined 11 other mines already on strike, and workers at five steel mills are planning to down tools today, a Solidarity spokesman said.

Solidarity, which is dissatisfied with the economic policy of the left-wing coalition government and talks on resolving coal-miners' protests, has also called a nationwide strike today and asked the government to meet its demands by this evening.

The union wants the government to scrap newly proposed wage controls in the public sector and speed up an industrial pact aimed at defining the role of workers in the privatization of state-owned companies.

But the government, which withdrew a controversial plan to restructure the lignite industry in a bid to end the week-long strike of lignite workers, said it is not going to bow to pressure again.

"We expected that... Our strategy is to escalate the protest," said Adam Jawor, Solidarity spokesman in Silesia.

He said about a third of all 65 coal mines and three zinc pits were on strike since the morning and that more were likely to join.

The government, which is facing its biggest challenge since taking power last year, said it would present its stand on the strikes and Solidarity's demands later yesterday.

Nestle bullish despite weak first-quarter sales

ZURICH (Reuters) — Nestle SA, the world's biggest food group, yesterday predicted higher profit and turnover for 1994 despite lower sales in the first quarter.

Chief Executive Helmut Maucher told a news conference company confidence remained weak in Europe. Nestle's biggest market, due to unemployment and falling real incomes.

"But there are signs the economy is improving. An upswing in consumption in Europe is likely in the second half of the year," he said. Nestle expected sales and profit to rise this year.

Nestle boosted group net profit by seven percent in 1993 to \$2.02 billion on sales 5.5 percent higher at \$40.23b.

It reported sales in first-quarter 1994 fell by 2.5% to \$9.2b. due to the franc's strength against other currencies. But sales volume grew by 1.5%, with a sharp acceleration in March when sales were 5.5% higher than a year earlier.

Maucher said that apart from earning more profit, Nestle would reap a "considerable" sum of cash from the agreed sale of Cosmar Inc. and other holdings to French cosmetics group L'Oréal. Cosmar is L'Oréal's exclusive agent in the US.

Swiss industry analysts have estimated Nestle will make up to \$1b. from the deal.

Finance director Reto Domeniconi said Nestle's net debt should fall by around \$700

million this year from \$5.6b. at the end of 1993, provided it did not make a major acquisition.

Maucher said a big acquisition was not planned, although Nestle might be interested in buying the food manufacturing activities of Swedish group Volvo's Branded Consumer Products (BCP). Motor manufacturer Volvo is currently divesting non-core assets and the biggest single potential sale would be of BCP.

Maucher said Nestle had weathered the recession better than most rivals, due largely to its greater geographical spread, with particular strength in Asia and Latin America.

Another factor was its broad product

range, with a recent emphasis on building up activities in ice cream and mineral waters, as in the acquisitions of France's Perrier, Italy's Finitalge, Deer Park of the US, and Taiwan's Foremost. "We have filled our strategic gaps," Maucher said.

The German-born executive confirmed Nestle would retain its 25% stake in L'Oréal, regarding the holding as a "strategic and very profitable" investment.

Nestle has said repeatedly it would like to gain a majority stake in the cosmetics group but Frenchwoman Lilliane Bettencourt, who is in her seventies and retains a controlling interest, has said she will not sell out as long as she lives.

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IBM, Hitachi announce computer technology accord

TOKYO (Reuters) — International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) and Hitachi Ltd. said yesterday they had formed an alliance to share technology and help them withstand a slump in the mainframe computers market.

The companies announced they had entered into technology and licensing agreements in mainframes and in an advanced technique known as RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computing), which helps microprocessors work faster.

Analysts say both giants have been hurt by a weak market for large, mainframe computers, which still account for a big share of their revenues but have been hit by competition from smaller, more nimble makers of personal computers.

IBM will supply Hitachi with future versions of its CMOS (Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) microprocessors for integration into systems to be developed, manufactured and marketed by Hitachi from 1996, company officials said.

EC tells France to open its skies to competition

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — The European Commission told France yesterday to open some of its most profitable airline routes to competition from European Union carriers.

It said France had six months to free up its lucrative Paris-Toulouse and Paris-Marseille routes, but must let EU carriers operating between London and Paris use Paris-Orly airport immediately.

"The Commission decided the French authorities could no longer carry on refusing to (Union) airlines the right to operate the Paris-London route to and from the Orly airport," it said in a statement.

The decision follows a complaint by French airline TAT, which is 49.9% owned by British Airways Plc, that it was not being allowed to operate along the routes in question or to use Orly, Paris's most convenient airport for business travellers.

TAT charged that the French government was violating EU rules opening the bloc's skies.

French Transport Minister Bernard Bosson said it will appeal the decision.

French domestic airline Air Inter, owned by flag-carrier Air France, also said it would contest the ruling in the European courts. The air carrier currently has a monopoly on Toulouse-Orly and Marseille-Orly flights.

British Airways immediately welcomed the decision and said it and TAT would begin operating two daily return flights from Orly to London-Heathrow in June.

The French Transport ministry had no immediate comment, but was expected to make a statement later in the day.

Aviation experts said they believed the Commission was correctly implementing EU rules.

"You cannot say on a major route that you're excluding competition," one said, asking not to be named.

WORLD BRIEFS

Kodak reports \$82m. profits: Eastman Kodak Co., the world's largest maker of photographic products, has reported earnings of \$82 million for the first quarter, compared with a massive loss of \$2.02 billion a year ago, when it took a huge accounting charge.

The company said its earnings were equal to \$2.25 a share vs. a loss of \$6.18 a share in last year's first quarter, which stemmed from a \$2.17b. charge to cover employee benefits. Prior to the charge, last year's quarterly earnings totaled \$2.29 cents a share.

Eastman Kodak said this year's first-quarter profits came mainly from its core imaging business, while about \$1.0 of the \$2.29 a share earned last year reflected the sale of assets. *Reuters*

Belgium's UCB reports higher 1993 net profit: Belgium's UCB has reported a 1993 consolidated net profit of \$69.34m., up from \$64.91m. in 1992, but current profit before exceptional items fell 17%.

Analysts had expected a fall of up to 25% in current 1993 profit.

Chief executive officer Georges Jacobs told a news conference that 1993 results had been better than expected, which he attributed to a turnaround in the last quarter and a focus on specialty products. *Reuters*

Enichem to sell subsidiary: Italian chemicals group Enichem SpA has decided to sell its Enichem Augusta SpA subsidiary as part of a reorganization and to try to contain huge losses.

Enichem, which posted a group loss of \$917m. in 1992, directly and indirectly controls 84.25% of Enichem Augusta. The rest is traded on the stock market.

Enichem said it had charged an Italian subsidiary of the Swiss Bank Corporation to sell its stake in Enichem Augusta, but did not say if any potential buyers had been lined up.

Enichem Augusta posted a consolidated net profit of \$14.64m., up from \$11.4m. a year earlier.

Enichem Augusta shares closed at \$1.67 on the Milan bourse on Tuesday, up 164 lire. *Reuters*

Northern Telecom reports gains: Northern Telecom Ltd., the Canadian telecommunications giant, has confounded pundits who were braced for red ink and reported a profit for the latest quarter, boosted by strong US sales and forays into international markets.

Analysts were pleasantly surprised by the results, which showed better-than-expected profit margins and software sales.

Northern posted a net profit of \$88m., or \$3.35 a share, compared with earnings of \$76m., or \$3.30 a share, a year earlier. The results were boosted by a \$72m., or \$2.99 a share, gain on the sale of a fiber-optic plant in Saskatchewan.

Northern's shares jumped \$2.25 to \$30.125 in late Tuesday trading on the New York Stock Exchange. *Reuters*

Lego boosts '93 sales, profits: Denmark's family-owned Lego group said yesterday it boosted profits in 1993 while raising its share of the world toy market.

Its annual report said Lego A/S, the Danish holding company for 19 of the group's 42 companies, raised sales by 12% to \$803.9m. and pre-tax profit by 25% to \$120.3m.

Lego A/S, which employs 5,257 of the group's 8,560 employees, attributed the positive trend to reduced raw-material prices due to the strong Danish crown, and only modest increases in production costs.

Lego gave no financial details of 1993 worldwide results, saying only that sales to distributors in 127 markets rose by 13%, up from an 8% rise in 1992. *Reuters*

Compass Group buys Canteen: Fast-growing British caterer Compass Group Plc announced yesterday the \$450m. acquisition of Flagstar Companies Inc.'s subsidiary Canteen, one of the three biggest catering companies in the US.

South Carolina-based Canteen has food service and vending machine operations in factories, hospitals, and prisons all over the US, with 20,000 employees serving 1,600 food service accounts and more than 100,000 vending machines.

It had sales of \$1.049b. in 1993 and an operating income of \$38m., a sharp drop from 1992's \$49m. which Compass blamed on recession and lack of a clear strategy.

Compass said it expects the "extremely exciting" acquisition to enhance its earnings immediately. *Reuters*

Williams buys Solvay business: Anglo-American conglomerate Williams Holdings Plc said yesterday it is buying the European woodware and tile adhesive business of Belgian chemical giant Solvay S.A. for \$64m. cash.

Williams, which plans to fund the acquisition with a rights issue to raise £267m., said it is part of a continuing quest to develop its core businesses of fire prevention, security, and building products.

Total sales of the businesses being bought were £90m. in 1993. *Reuters*

Britain's Airtours to buy SAS tour arm: Airtours, Britain's second largest package holidays group, said yesterday it is in advanced talks to buy the Nordic region's biggest tour operator, Sweden's SAS Leisure, for \$111.2m.

Airtours said it is also in negotiations to buy a cruise ship for \$24m.

It plans to fund most of the \$135.6m. bill for the purchases through a rights issue. *Reuters*

KOSHER KIDS BOOKS

From YBR Press, publishers of UH OH! Passover.



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From Rosh Hashana to Jerusalem Day, kids will have hours of holiday fun finding the symbols of each holiday in full color. "Where's Waldo" type illustrations. Hardcover.

Zap It!
A microwave kosher cookbook, just for kids. Zap super snacks and full course meals... Funny Face Soup, Delightful Dinosaurs, Kid's Cocktail, and more. Clear instructions, color illustrations and photos. Plus instructions on microwave oven usage. Hardcover.



Noah's Family Carousel
Pre-schoolers will marvel at the antics of Noah's children and the animals aboard the Ark. Then, quick as a wink, the storybook transforms into a 3-D carousel. Brilliant color illustrations. Size: 13.5 x 16.5 cm. Hardcover, cutout.

Kindergarten Carousel
Fluff the Cat welcomes children to Rachel's kindergarten. They play games, dress up for Purim, celebrate Pesach, and welcome Shabbat. The storybook easily transforms into a carousel. All in color. Size: 13.5 x 16.5 cm. Hardcover, cutout.

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Barcelona, AC Milan to meet in European Champions Cup final

BARCELONA - Barcelona and AC Milan each enjoyed 3-0 soccer wins in the European Champions Cup semifinals last night. Host Barcelona beat Porto and Milan shut down visiting Monaco.

Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov scored two first-half goals and Ronald Koeman scored late to lead Barcelona, moving the Spanish side into its second Champions Cup final in three seasons.

Barcelona, the highest scoring team in this season's Champions League, grabbed a 1-0 lead in the 10th minute when Stoichkov scored from six meters in front of 110,000 howling fans at Camp Nou stadium.

The 28-year-old Stoichkov made it 2-0 in the 35th minute on another goal from six meters that looked just like the first one.

Dutch defender Koeman finished off Porto in the 72nd minute to make it 3-0 with a driving goal from 35 meters that goalie Vitor Baia leaped high to his left trying to stop.

Barcelona, the three-time defending Spanish league champions, won the cup in 1992 with a 1-0 victory over Italian side Sampdoria in London.

Italian champions AC Milan, playing with only 10 men from the 40th minute, overpowered inept Monaco to reach their fourth European Champions Cup final in six seasons.

Frenchman Marcel Desailly headed Milan into the lead in the 14th minute, midfielder Demetrio Albertini drilled home the second three minutes after halftime and Daniele Massaro volleyed a superb third in the 65th minute to decide the one-off tie.

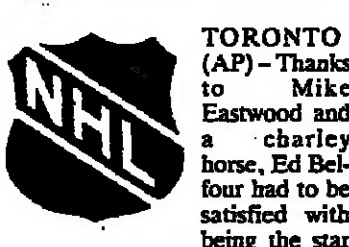
But the Italians will be without central defenders Alessandro Costacurta, sent off last night, and captain Franco Baresi as they seek to win Europe's premier trophy for the fifth time.

German referee Bernd Heynemann provoked uproar among a crowd of almost 80,000 when he dismissed Costacurta in the 40th minute for a second bookable foul on German striker Juergen Klinsmann.

Both he and partner Baresi will be suspended for the May 18 final in Athens.

In UEFA Cup action on Tuesday night, Italian international Nicola Bertoni scored in the 35th minute on a precise diagonal shot to give Internazionale di Milano a 1-0 hard-earned away victory against Salzburg in the first leg of the final. (AP, Reuters)

Leafs take 3-2 lead over Chicago



TORONTO (AP) - Thanks to Mike Eastwood and a charity horse, Ed Belfour had to be satisfied with being the star of the game rather than the winner.

Eastwood, playing because of a leg injury early in the third period that sidelined Doug Gilmour, scored the game's only goal with 9:53 to play Tuesday night, giving Toronto a 3-2 edge over the Blackhawks in a best-of-7 first-round playoff series.

"It's a tremendous relief," Eastwood said of his first goal of the playoffs, which came with 13 seconds remaining in a Toronto power play. "I was just happy to be in the right place at the right time."

Wendel (Clark) made a great play behind the net to get the puck over to Dave (Andreychuk) and I just got a piece of it."

The goal ruined a brilliant performance by Belfour, who stopped 36 shots, and made a winner of Toronto's Felix Potvin, who was seldom tested in facing 17 Chicago shots.

Game 6 of the series is tonight at Chicago.

The other three first-round series scheduled for last night were Pittsburgh at Washington, New Jersey at Buffalo and Boston at Montreal. Washington, New Jersey and Montreal have 3-2 leads in the respective series. Dallas and the New York Rangers have already advanced to the second round.

Canucks 2, Flames 1

Geoff Courtnall's goal 7:15 into overtime kept alive Vancouver's playoff hopes. Calgary could have closed out the series by winning on its home ice but instead Vancouver won the right to host Game 6 tonight. A seventh game, if necessary, would be played Saturday night at Calgary.

The game turned on a defensive mistake. Calgary's Kevin Dahl was unable to control a bouncing puck near center ice and Courtnall took over. He broke in alone and scored on a 35-foot slap shot.



EYE ON THE PUCK - Blackhawks' Brent Sutter (l) follows the flight of the puck as Maple Leafs' Bob Rouse moves in. (Reuters)

Calgary, which hasn't won a playoff series since winning the NHL championship in 1989, and Vancouver exchanged goals early in the first period. Calgary's German Titov and Vancouver's Pavel Bure scored 65 seconds apart, and thereafter the game belonged to goalies Kirk McLean of Vancouver and Mil: Vernon of Calgary.

Sharks 6, Red Wings 4

Johan Garpenlov scored with 8:08 gone in the final period to give host San Jose a 5-3 lead. Nicklas Lidstrom's second goal of the third period brought Detroit within 5-4 with 4:38 left, but Bob Errey's goal less than a minute later gave the Sharks a two-goal cushion.

Game 6 of the series is tonight at Detroit as the Red Wings, the conference's top-seeded team, try to avert elimination on home ice.

Sergei Makarov scored twice for the Sharks, giving him five playoff goals.

San Jose goalie Arturs Irbe had 31 saves as San Jose was outshot 35-21.

NHL Playoff Glance
Quarter-finals (Best-of-7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Rangers win 4-0
New Jersey leads Buffalo 3-2
Washington leads Pittsburgh 3-2
Montreal leads Boston 3-2

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Dallas wins 4-0
Tuesday's results:
Toronto 1, Chicago 0
Toronto leads 3-2
Vancouver 2, Calgary 1 (OT)
Calgary leads 3-2
San Jose 8, Detroit 4
San Jose leads 3-2

Sonics wail: 'Nobody gives us any credit' Wilkins trade raised doubts about Hawks

SEATTLE (AP) - Although they had the best regular-season record in the NBA, the Seattle SuperSonics aren't considered a strong favorite to win the league championship.

The Sonics finished with a 63-19 record, five more wins than any other team in the league. But they don't have any superstars and don't seem to scare any of their opponents.

"Nobody's given us any credit, especially back East," forward Detlef Schrempf of Germany said. "When they talk about the West, they talk about Phoenix or Houston."

The Sonics, who host Denver tonight, win with depth and defense. They wear down opponents with a full-court press that helped produce 1,053 steals this season, only six fewer than the league record.

Seattle has no Shaquille O'Neal, Hakeem Olajuwon or Charles Barkley. What the team does have

is great balance. Six players average in double figures, led by Shawn Kemp with 18.1 points per game.

With so many good players, playing time is precious. Nine Sonics average more than 20 minutes a game.

Schrempf, who averaged 19.1 points last season with Indiana, has seen his average fall to 15 per game this year with Seattle.

Gary Payton was unhappy and confused before coach George Karl replaced K.C. Jones midway through the 1991-92 season. Since then, he has developed into an All-Star point guard.

Kemp, a 6-foot-10 power forward who went straight from high school to the NBA, led the Sonics in scoring, rebounding and blocked shots this season.

The Sonics have a strong backcourt with Payton, Kendall Gill, Ricky Pierce and Nate McMillan. Pierce is a great shooter and McMillan led the league in steals.

ATLANTA (AP) - The Atlanta Hawks, the top-seeded team in the Eastern Conference playoffs, clearly aren't so highly regarded by the public.

The February trade of Dominique Wilkins, the leading scorer in franchise history, to the Los Angeles Clippers raised plenty of doubts about whether this was the kind of deal a contending team should make.

Danny Manning's unhappy final years with the Clippers also caused some to question his attitude and character, and his first game at Atlanta in a Hawks uniform prompted as many boos as cheers.

Manning's performance down the stretch gives little hint that the trade damaged the team's hopes for the playoffs that start tonight. The Hawks play host to the eighth-seeded Heat, who became the last team to qualify for the playoffs.

"I'm not going to replace Dominique. I'm going to do the best I can," Manning said.

In other playoff openers tonight, Indiana is at Orlando in the East, while it's Denver at Seattle and Utah at San Antonio in the Western Conference.

Tomorrow, it's New Jersey at New York and Cleveland at Chicago in the East and Portland at Houston and Golden State at Phoenix in the West.

The Hawks were 37-16 before the Manning-Wilkins trade, a .698 percentage, and 20-9 with Manning on the roster, or .690.

That's hardly a precipitous drop, but the Hawks still found it necessary to defend Manning.

"Danny is an all-star caliber player and is six years younger than Wilkins," coach Lenny Wilkins said. "Anytime you get an opportunity to make this kind of deal, you're kind of foolish if you don't."

Wilkins said that no one who knows Manning or deals with him in the media seriously questions his attitude.

Vancouver joins NBA

NEW YORK (AP) - The NBA Board of Governors yesterday granted a franchise to a Vancouver group headed by Arthur Griffiths, owner of the NHL's Vancouver Canucks.

The team will begin play in the 1995-1996 season.

Vancouver joins Toronto, which was approved by the NBA in November, as the second expansion team. The two Canadian franchises will increase the NBA to 29 teams.

"We're thrilled to welcome Vancouver into the NBA," commissioner David Stern said. "The Griffiths family has been a model of professional sports ownership."

To gain admission to the league, Toronto and Vancouver had to get NBA betting removed from their provincial lotteries.

Vancouver will have to pay a \$125 million fee to enter the league.

Griffiths said one of his first priorities will be finding an administrator to run the team.

Griffiths said he has already talked with potential candidates who aren't currently working in the NBA.

The team was expected to be called the Mounties, but Griffiths said he's now looking for another name because of objections by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and licensing problems.

In other news, the University of Connecticut's Donnyell Marshall is going into the NBA draft.

He is expected to be an early pick in the June 29th picks.

The 6-foot-9 junior led the Huskies to a 29-5 record. He averaged 25.1 points a game last season, while scoring a school-record 853 points.

Dodgers hand Phillies fourth straight loss

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Henry Rodriguez and Raul Mondesi singled in runs in the seventh inning, and the Dodgers rallied from a 2-0 deficit to send Philadelphia to its fourth straight loss, a 4-0 beating on Tuesday night.

After David West (0-3) walked Brett Butler and allowed a single to Jose Offerman, Heathcliff Slocumb allowed the singles to Rodriguez and Mondesi.

Gary Wayne (1-2) allowed one hit in 1 1/2 innings. Todd Worrell pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Padres 6, Mets 3

Hours after he was charged with soliciting a prostitute, Scott Sanders returned to the mound in New York and earned his first career save in San Diego's victory.

Sanders pitched 1 1/2 innings in relief of former-Met Wally Whitehurst (2-3), who matched his career high with nine strikeouts and allowed three runs and five hits in seven innings.

Pete Smith (1-3) lost his third straight start, allowing four runs and six hits in seven innings with three strikeouts and two walks.

Reds 8, Cubs 2

Tim Lincecum (2-0) pitched a five-hitter, and Thomas Howard and Tony Fernandez each drove in three runs as the host Reds won for the seventh time in eight games and improved to a major-league best 13-5.

Turk Wendell (0-1), called up Saturday when Jose Guzman went on the disabled list, gave up eight hits and six runs in four-plus innings.

Braves 9, Marlins 6

Rookie Mike Kelly collected his first major-league RBIs with a three-run double to break an eighth-inning tie.

Rookies Javier Lopez and Ryan Klesko homered for the visiting Braves, who came back from a 5-1 deficit and avoided what would have been their sixth loss in seven games.

Mark Wohlers (3-0) gave up a game-tying homer to Orestes Destrade, his



RAMMING SPEED - Blue Jays baserunner Randy Knorr plows through Royals catcher Mike McFarlane to score on a Devon White double in third-inning action. (Reuters)

third, leading off the seventh. Greg McMichael pitched two perfect innings for his fifth save. Luis Aquino (1-1) was the loser.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Blue Jays 8, Royals 6

Joe Carter tied a major league record with his 29th RBI in April, sending Todd Stottlemyre and Toronto to a road win.

Carter is the fourth player to drive in 29 runs in April, joining Ron Cey (1977), Dale Murphy (1985) and Dave Winfield (1988). Carter is on a 13-game hitting streak and has eight homers in the month.

Devon White went 4-for-4 with a triple, was hit by a pitch and scored three times. He leads the league with 25 runs scored.

Orioles 10, Athletics 4

Brady Anderson hit two homers and two doubles as Baltimore dealt the Athletics their eighth straight loss in their worst road trip in 15 years.

Rafael Palmeiro and Chris Hoiles also homered in the Orioles' seventh win in 10 games.

Angels 6, Yankees 3

Brian Anderson, making only his fifth career start, helped visiting California end the Yankees' six-game winning streak.

Mariners 4, Red Sox 3

Pitcher Greg Harris threw past home plate on Torey Lovullo's grounder with the bases loaded in the bottom of the 10th inning.

The Mariners loaded the bases with one out when Rich Amaral led off with a double for his third hit and Ken Griffey Jr. was intentionally walked. After Jay Buhner sacrificed, Reggie Jefferson was intentionally walked. Lovullo grounded back to the mound, but Harris (1-2) threw the ball past catcher Dave Valle. Lovullo was given credit for an RBI on the fielder's choice.

Bobby Ayala (2-1) pitched two perfect innings in relief of Chris Bosio. Ayala struck out three of the six batters he faced.

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AMERICAN LEAGUE

Lara awarded pre-debut county cap

LONDON (Reuters) - Warwickshire broke with 114 years of tradition yesterday when they awarded record breaker Brian Lara his county cap without him having played for them first.

"As a world record holder, we felt that he deserved it, and it was the right thing to do straight away," said Warwickshire's chief executive Dennis Amis.

Lara, who made a world record Test score of 375 against England earlier this month, found himself confronted by an army of photographers and reporters when he arrived at the English county's Edgbaston ground.

Warwickshire provided Lara with a car with a special personalized number plate - LJ75 ARA.

He will make his debut in a championship match against Glamorgan starting today.

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	15	6	.714	
Montreal	10	10	.500	4½
New York	9	10	.474	5
Philadelphia	11	11	.450	5½
Philadelphia	8	12	.400	6½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	13	5	.722	
St. Louis	12	7	.632	1½
Houston	10	9	.526	3½
Pittsburgh	9	9	.500	4
Chicago	8	13	.278	6
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	11	9	.550	
Colorado	9	10	.474	1½
Los Angeles	9	11	.450	2
San Diego	7	14	.333	4½

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Montreal 7, San Francisco 3
Cincinnati 6, New York 3
San Diego 6, New York 3
St. Louis 2, Colorado 1
Pittsburgh 7, Houston 4
Atlanta 9, Florida 6
Los Angeles 4, Philadelphia 3

TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Baltimore 10, Oakland 4
California 6, New York 3
Cleveland 11, Minnesota 3
Chicago 3, Milwaukee 6
Toronto 8, Kansas City 6
Texas 6, Detroit 1
Seattle 4, Boston 3 (10)

US House c'ttee holds hearing on regulating boxing

WASHINGTON (AP) - Sponsors of a revived effort to federally regulate boxing had their first hearing in the House of Representatives on Tuesday with little to indicate Congress will act on it before adjourning in October.

Nonetheless, advocates for a boxing czar claimed progress, saying they have lined up key supporters from each party in the House and Senate for the first time.

They also cited Evander Holyfield's decision Tuesday to retire from boxing after he was diagnosed as having a congenital heart condition during his Las Vegas fight last Friday night when he lost his heavyweight title to Michael Moore.

"We should not squander this opportunity," Sen. Bill Roth, R-Del., chief author of the

Senate's version, told the House Energy and Commerce Committee's subcommittee on consumer protection and competitiveness.

Holyfield's trainer, Lou Duva, told the House panel that the fighter's cornermen should have stopped the fight and added they never should have been licensed by Nevada's boxing commission.

A House bill by Rep. Bill Richardson, D-NM, to establish a self-financed Professional Boxing Corporation headed by a presidential appointee is on a long list of legislation pending before the Energy and Commerce panel.

"Part of the problem with professional boxing is the patchwork of regulations and standards that exist in the 50 states," said Richardson. "And the sport tried unsuccessfully for

years to regulate itself."

Richardson's bill and the similar one by Roth would require a federal boxing czar to set minimum health and safety standards while leaving the day-to-day regulation of the sport to state commissions.

It also would establish a computerized database for collecting and disseminating each professional boxer's medical and ring records.

The standards now vary widely from state to state. In New York, for example, boxers are medically suspended after six consecutive losses or three straight losses involving a knockout or TKO to reduce the risk of chronic brain injury.

Most states, however, are not as stringent, and in some there are no regulations at all.

SPORTS BRIEFS

'Clotheslining' Colts linebacker dies

Bill Pellington, an intimidating force on the Baltimore Colts for more than a decade, died Tuesday of complications from Alzheimer's disease. He was 66.

"He was famous for 'clotheslining' wide receivers and running backs. I think he broke his arm two or three times doing that," said former teammate and linebacker Dick Szynski.

"He was one of the mainstays of the defensive unit," said Hall of Fame quarterback Johnny Unitas. "He scared most people because of his size and his deep-set eyes."

He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 1989 and gradually lost his ability to walk and speak and could no longer recognize family.

Their son, Mark Pellington, a film director, made a documentary about his father's illness titled "Father's Daze."

Harding serves up community service

Six weeks after she was convicted as a felon, Tonya Harding is serving meals to the elderly, seeing a counselor, working for a landscaper and skating more than ever at her old practice rink.

She's been serving meals for Loaves and Fishes, an organization that provides food for the elderly at several locations around the Portland, Oregon area.

Harding has one year to complete the 500 hours of community service.

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GENERAL

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Over Chicago

...served from...
...on home ice...
...scored once for the...
...him five plays...

NHL Playoff Glimpse
Quarter-finals (Best-of-7)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
New York Rangers vs. Pittsburgh Penguins
Game 1: 7:00 p.m. on Channel 32
Game 2: 7:00 p.m. on Channel 32

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Los Angeles Kings vs. San Jose Sharks
Game 1: 7:00 p.m. on Channel 32
Game 2: 7:00 p.m. on Channel 32

WEATHER

Jerusalem 16-21
Tel Aviv 16-21
Haifa 16-21
Beersheba 16-21
Dead Sea 18-26
Golan 16-21

Forecast: Heat wave

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Notes
Jerusalem	16-21	16-21	clear
Tel Aviv	16-21	16-21	clear
Haifa	16-21	16-21	clear
Beersheba	16-21	16-21	clear
Dead Sea	18-26	18-26	clear
Golan	16-21	16-21	clear

WHERE TO GO

Jerusalem: Mount of Olives, Temple Mount, Old City, etc.
Tel Aviv: Museum of Art, Tel Aviv Museum, etc.
Haifa: Haifa Museum, Haifa Park, etc.

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.

TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. David Rees: Paintings 1982-94. Tel Aviv Museum, Tel Aviv.

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

THE Best of the Fest comes to Ra'anana when Dani Schwartzman's devilish musical *Hell to Pay*, Jodi Schenck's elegiac *Winter Roses* and John Mortimer's chucklesome *I Spy* will be presented on Saturday at Yad Lahanim. All three plays won Best of the Evening at the recent EADI English drama festival. Showtime is at 8:45 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE Israel Philharmonic Orchestra concerts feature a concert version of Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, under the baton of Theodor Guschlbauer. Austrian soprano Eva Lind joins the cast as Adele. *Die Fledermaus* can be heard tonight, tomorrow, Saturday and next Monday and Tuesday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, next Sunday at the Haifa Auditorium. All at 8:30 except Friday at 2.

The Yuval Trio is presenting its last series of concerts after three decades of working together. Saturday (8:30) at the Tel Aviv Museum they perform music by Ravel, Mendelssohn and the local premiere of a trio by Gerald Schapiro.

At the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, tonight (8:30) at Ticho House, a four-hand piano recital by Bruce Levi and Allan Sternfeld, music by Debussy, Hindemith, Stravinsky and Samuel Barber.

Chamber music in Jerusalem this weekend also features the Tontine Choir in an a cappella program conducted by Tami Kleinhaus Saturday (8:30) at the Bible Lands Museum. At the same time, Carol Cerasi presents a harpichord recital at the Zion Confederation House. At St. Andrew's Church in Jerusalem (Saturday 8:30) the Tivon Chamber Choir under Yoel Sivan performs an a cappella program plus arias by Bach and Delalande's *De Profundis*.

DANCE

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THERE are many programs at the Suzanne Dellal Center's Spring-Loaded Dance Festival over the weekend. *Somewhere* (Friday at 10 and Saturday at 8:30) is a new work that features one male and one female dancer, a singer and a violinist, who examine the relationship between dance and music. It is choreographed by Yael Karmeski and the singer is Adi Etzion.

Saturday (11:30 a.m.) the entire family can enjoy the Batsheva Ensemble's sizzling presentation of Ohad Naharin's *Dance Party* as well as the Nomads dance company from Switzerland (8:30) in a repertory program, also on Friday at 10. Tonight is your last chance to see Anat Danieli's newest dance work, *Kisses* (8:30).

TELEVISION

PENNY STARR

If you missed all the high-finance thrills and spills of *Capital City*, last night's episode is repeated today on Star Plus at 4:30 p.m.

The early movie on the Second Showing tonight is the excellent documentary spoof *This Is Spinal Tap*, in which the long-haired louts of a heavy metal band get into fights about gigs and interfering girlfriends. The movie, complete with superfluous unlauds, starts at 9:30 p.m.

On Channel 1 L.A. Law at 9:45 p.m. is followed by *Special Lag* by Omer celebrations live from Safed. *Benjamin* starts at 10:30 p.m. Or you can always turn to the New Channel 2's great young comedy team *The Camer Quintet*, also at 10:30.

CINEMA

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IN THEATERS

IN THEATERS

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TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. David Rees: Paintings 1982-94. Tel Aviv Museum, Tel Aviv.

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CHANNEL 1

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HEBREW PROGRAMS

THE NEW CHANNEL 2

JORDAN TV

MIDDLE EAST TV

CABLE

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

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RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL (6)

SECOND SHOWING (6)

DISCOVERY CHANNEL (8)

SUPER CHANNEL

STAR PLUS

CABLE

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

QUICK CROSSWORD

PLO plan to sign economic pact today

JOSE ROSENFELD and ELDAD BECK

an economic
Paris this
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spokesman Arik Gordin.

Gordin said the delegations had concluded agreements on labor, banking, and insurance yesterday. He added that he could not provide details on how some of the more contentious issues had been resolved, including an agreement on Value Added Tax rates and trade with Arab countries. Although there was much tension and controversy at times, Gordin said, the obstacles were resolved one by one without the talks to break down.

The agreement is scheduled to be signed at 10:30 a.m. today (Israel time) at the French Foreign Ministry.

Another obstacle the sides overcame yesterday concerned the presence of Israeli customs officers at the crossings between Jericho and Jordan and Gaza and Egypt. The Palestinians claimed that the Israeli delegation had changed its position over this issue, thus threatening the entire agreement. But after long, uninterrupted negotiations Wednesday and yesterday, the teams

reached certain "understandings," although no details were given.

Israeli sources suggested that the "last-minute crisis" was initiated by the Palestinians for tactical reasons. "It's part of their typical bargaining system, trying to gain as much as possible before ending the talks by putting the Israelis under pressure," an Israeli official said.

Earlier yesterday, working teams reached an agreement over insurance issues, whereby insurance policies issued by the Palestinian authority would be recognized by Israel, and vice versa.

Russia paves way for arms supplies to Syria

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Russia has signed a military cooperation agreement with Syria that would pave the way for resumption of arms supplies to Damascus, Russian officials said yesterday.

The Soviet Union was for many years Syria's main arms supplier on generous terms.

Russian officials said the new deal, the first of its kind since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, was signed on Wednesday at the end of a visit by Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets.

"It is an agreement for cooperation in the military field including the selling of weapons and training how to use them," a Russian official said.

He said the agreement constituted "a basis for military cooperation and the Russian government will provide the appropriate climate for cooperation."

Syrian and Russian leaders had agreed that "the problem of debts should not hinder joint cooperation in all fields," the Russian official said.

The agreement was signed by Soskovets and the Syrian Defense Minister, Lieutenant-General Mustafa Tlas, after the Russian deputy premier's talks with President Hafez Assad.

Soskovets, who was accompanied by economic as well as military experts, also signed an agreement aimed at encouraging private trade and joint business ventures, officials said.

Soskovets and Tlas had lengthy talks which officials said covered cooperation between the Syrian and Russian armies. They gave details.

The Russian official estimated Syria's debts to Moscow due by year 2010 at \$10 to \$11 billion, David Makovsky adds.

According to a study published last fall by Andre Volpin of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Damascus and Moscow have been discussing an arms deal since early 1993.

Volpin wrote, "In February 1993, Syria recognized Russian claims to Soviet-era debt and an initial payment of \$100 million. This in turn broke the jam on new arms deals; a preliminary contract worth \$1.6 billion was signed which included Sukhoi-27 jet fighters, 30 Su-24 jet fighters, 52 MiG-29 fighters, 350 T-72 tanks, 100 tanks, and 10 SA-10 surface air missile units.

If such an accord was reached, it would counter the cord Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin believed he reached with Syrian President Boris Yeltsin week in Moscow. According to Rabin, Yeltsin promised to upgrade the level of Syrian weaponry. The Sukhoi-27s, SA-10 missiles are among the sophisticated Russian weapons which until now were not sold transferred to Damascus.

Four die on road

FOUR people were killed, seven injured, one of them seriously in road accidents yesterday.

The fatal accidents occurred Beit She'an, Haifa, and Sdom. A three-year-old boy from Merkaz Mevo'im mobile home site in the Negev lost his leg as being struck by a car while crossing the street yesterday afternoon.

In a work accident, Eliezer Shevitz, 44, was killed when he fell from a scaffold on the 10th floor of the uncompleted Hyatt Hotel in the Sdom region of the Dead Sea.

CLARIFICATION

Since the feature, "The Sounds Solitary," in today's Magazine was printed, the comments in it by Ezer Levitan about being unable to vote in the South African election have been overtaken by events.

Thanks to the intervention of South African Ambassador Malcolm Ferguson, Levitan's citizenship and passport have been restored and she cast her vote in Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

HEBREW
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Main items of Gaza/Jericho accord

SOME of the main points of the Israel-PLO agreement for autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, according to senior Israeli officials in Cairo:

- The Palestinian authority will issue its own travel documents, its own stamps, and have its own area code.
- Palestinians will not run the Rafiah crossing point.
- Yasser Arafat will not march into Gaza or Jericho as "president of Palestine," and will not visit Al-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem.
- The PLO leader commits himself to provide more information on missing Israeli soldiers. (In Moscow, sources say Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told his Russian counterpart that Arafat was withholding information he had promised to reveal in order to avoid complicating his already difficult relations with Syria.)
- Arafat promises to uphold his pledge made last September to convene the Palestine National

al Council and amend the PLO charter calling for the destruction of Israel. However, Palestinians have said Arafat does not have a two-thirds majority to amend the charter.

The Palestinian prisoner issue will be discussed late tonight and tomorrow. Israel has already agreed to release 5,000 Palestinian prisoners in two stages over a three-week period beginning from the time the Gaza/Jericho accord is signed.

Other outstanding issues include the size of Jericho, sea access to Gaza, and judicial jurisdiction in both areas.

Earlier this week, Rabin said there would be some non-security and non-judicial issues that would only be negotiated upon after the agreement is concluded. He mentioned the character of a temporary international presence in Gaza/Jericho as an example of an issue that can be deferred.

David Makovsky

Winning numbers

IN last night's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket 057863 won the NIS 1 million top prize, while the Honda car went to ticket 404068.

Tickets 696639, 482087, 564879, 688425, 513795, 600618, 426000, 614653, 213577, 585913, 533478, 424570, 206053, 733584, 305522, 689235, 515755, 777406, 546953, 707595, 380957, 226277, 241039, 452991, 220324, and 601260 won NIS 5,000.

Winning NIS 1,000 were tickets ending in 51496, 46882, 91306, 28548, 72086, 58756, 03316, 18463, 00734, 16151, 88375, 10907, 14690, 47086, 28925, 96057, 56971, 49845, and 88094.

Tickets ending in 713, 551, 853 and 006 won NIS 100, while those ending in 69, 04, 08 and 32 won NIS 20.

Winning NIS 10 were tickets ending in 52, 51, 29, 93, 72, 89 and 33, while those ending in 1 won NIS 7.

S. AFRICA

(Continued from Page 1)

almost certain to be the country's first black president, and Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi had both called for polling to be extended to ensure everyone had an opportunity to vote.

Buthelezi had threatened on Wednesday that he could pull his KwaZulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party out of the elections because of problems faced by blacks voting for the first time to end more than three centuries of white domination.

The government, the African National Congress and the IEC said the three-day election that started on Tuesday had generally gone well, however.

The election ended officially across the country at 7 p.m. yesterday, but individual polling stations remained open to midnight for people still waiting to vote.

Wednesday and yesterday were public holidays to facilitate voting, but today is a normal working day.

De Klerk said it was essential that the elections produced a government of national unity "representing the overwhelming majority of South Africans."

He said the National Party, which created and destroyed apartheid over four decades, had insisted that the votes cast on Friday be kept separate so that any disputes arising from them would not affect ballots cast in the previous three days.

De Klerk said there had been reports of irregularities in some areas but called for unity among all political opponents to face the future.

"Let us unite as a nation irrespective of our political differences around this transitional constitution... let us work for our people, for our youth and for future generations," he said.

The new post-apartheid South Africa was born at midnight on

Tuesday, when the country got a new constitution, flag and national anthem - and the 10 homelands created under apartheid to segregate the races disappeared.

A tired-looking Mandela, who at 75 will be among the world's oldest leaders, spoke earlier yesterday of "massive sabotage" in the elections.

But ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus, who also joined other top ANC officials in saying the elections had gone well, described Mandela's accusation as "an expression of frustration."

"We have no reason to believe that there is massive sabotage by the IEC," Niehaus said.

The IEC suspended a number of officials in the southern city of Port Elizabeth after police said they found them sifting through ballot papers after breaking ballot box seals.

Tens of thousands of first-time black voters queued from before dawn yesterday to take part in the poll.

Witnesses at some of the 9,000 polling stations nationwide said there appeared to be fewer voters out on the streets compared to Wednesday, when columns several kilometers long built up outside some and others ran out of ballot papers.

Police said yesterday that they had arrested 32 neo-Nazis in connection with a spate of bombings leading up to the elections in which 21 people were killed and nearly 200 wounded.

Police Colonel David Bruce said all those arrested were members of the Iron Guard of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement headed by Eugene Terre Blanche.

Terre Blanche, a bitter opponent of South Africa's transition to black majority rule, told reporters he expected more bombings until Afrikaners got their own sovereign homeland.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, 8 of hearts, 10 of diamonds and king of clubs.

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Jordanians compensate families of Hebron massacre victims

JON IMMANUEL

RELATIVES of the 29 Moslem worshippers who died in the Machpela Cave massacre received compensation from private Jordanian donors yesterday in Hebron's religious court.

In the first of two installments of \$10,000 Jordanian dinars, the relatives received between 5,000 and 10,000 dinars (NIS 20,000-40,000), depending on whether their murdered family member was single, married, or married with children. Another check is to be distributed next month.

If a father left children, money

was kept back by the court for distribution when the sons reach the age of 18.

The government has promised to award from NIS 126,000 to NIS 230,000 to each of the bereaved families, but no money has yet been distributed. The family members have now agreed to accept the Israeli compensation, which was a matter of dispute until recently, said Hebron notable Faysel Kawasmeh.

The 29 people who died when

Kiryat Arba settler Baruch Goldstein opened fire in the Cave of Machpela on February 25 left more than 250 dependents and relatives. Kawasmeh said.

"We will take the money just as Israel took money from Germany," one bereaved relative said.

In a related matter, Israel Television reported from Cairo yesterday that the international observer mission in Hebron, to which Israel agreed after the massacre, will be deployed there from May 8, six days after a signing ceremony in Copenhagen next Monday.

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